THE BEST SOFTWARE OF '94 • MEMORY BOOSTERS

HOME PC

entertainment, education and productivity

December 1994

$2.95 U.S. $3.95 Canada

Perfect Gifts

HOLIDAY SPECIAL!

Buying the Right PC

30 Gifts Under $100

25 Ideas for Family Projects

Shop at Home Tips

0 09128 47319 2 12

A CMP Publication ®

COREL DRAW!™

The Award Winning Graphics and Publishing Team!

WINNER OF OVER **150** FIRST PLACE AWARDS

$99* CD-ROM Version

$129* CD-ROM and 3.5" disks

Ideal Entry-Level Graphics

CorelDRAW 3 is so easy to use! With precision type control, amazing special effects and powerful illustration tools, CorelDRAW 3 is the ideal entry-level graphics package. CorelDRAW 3 includes CorelCHART, Corel PHOTO-PAINT, CorelSHOW, CorelTRACE and Corel MOSAIC.

- **250 Fonts**
- **14,000 Clipart Images & Symbols**

Hot News!
CorelDRAW 4 wins Editor's Choice and Usability Award.
PC Magazine, UK
July 1994

Powerhouse Graphics

CorelDRAW 4 is the complete graphics solution. With all the power and modules of CorelDRAW 3, CorelDRAW 4 also includes dozens of new artistic and technical enhancements, an object-orientated animation module, OCR capabilities and multi-page layout.

- **750 Fonts**
- **18,000 Clipart Images & Symbols**

$269* CD-ROM Version

$389* CD-ROM and 3.5" disks

Complete Graphics & Publishing Solution

CorelDRAW 5 combines the graphics power of CorelDRAW and the advanced publishing capabilities of Corel VENTURA 5 within an integrated user interface. CorelDRAW 5 has all the modules of CorelDRAW 4 plus a revolutionary color management system, major gains in speed and performance, and hundreds of improvements.

- **825 Fonts**
- **22,000 Clipart Images & Symbols**

$459* CD-ROM Version

$589* CD-ROM and 3.5" disks

inmac®
1-800-547-0021
Call for upgrade pricing

*US$ plus applicable taxes.

KUR-0070

Enter the Corel $2,000,000 World Design Contest and win! (September to March) To receive a faxed copy of the contest rules and an entry form please call: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 3080, Document #1004. To leave a message please call: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 81609.

COREL®
1-613-728-3733

COREL

PC & MAC

THE WORLD'S LEADING PHOTO CD-ROM COLLECTION

HUNDREDS OF USES

Project your messages quickly and effectively with photographs. *They will add flair and value to all your communications.*

ROYALTY FREE

All Corel Professional Photos are royalty free. Corel has ensured that *all images are photographer as well as model released.* Once you purchase a Corel Professional Photos title you are free to use the images as often as you wish; there are no additional fees.

Also Great as SCREEN SAVERS

QUALITY

All Corel Professional Photos are shot by professional photographers. *Each image is carefully scanned using the Kodak photo CD process,* and is available in 5 resolutions. With digital photographs, modifying and editing is so much faster and easier.

OWNERSHIP

For less than 25¢ an image you will have your own personal library of photos. Being on CD-ROM the images are resistant to damage and the effects of time. You'll have them forever!

Each CD-ROM includes: Image management software • Printed reference guide • Screen saver utilities

COREL PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS
CD-ROM
Works with any ISO 9660 CD-ROM drive (XA support not needed)

- Royalty Free
- Kodak Photo CD Format
- PC & Mac Compatible
- Ideal for Desktop Publishing

OVER 300 TITLES TO CHOOSE FROM!

20 new titles every month! Volume sets also available.
100 stunning photographs on each CD-ROM.

PUBLISHER'S™ TOOLBOX

Hardware and Software for the Professional!

$19.95* each

Call to place your order – today! **1-800-233-3898**

*U.S. funds plus applicable taxes.

COREL 1-613-728-3733

KUR-0072

$ ATTENTION $ PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

If you are a professional photographer interested in having your photographs published in the world's leading photo CD-ROM collection, call the number below for more information.

1-613-728-0826 ext. 85080

All Corel Professional Photos can be exported for use in any PC or Mac graphics, paint or DTP software package. CorelDRAW's PHOTO-PAINT module, available in CorelDRAW 3, 4 and 5, provides an assortment of photo-editing tools to alter and manipulate photographs, along with the ability to add a variety of artistic effects and filters.

Enter the Corel $2,000,000 World Design Contest and win! (September to March)
To receive a fax: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 3080, Document #1004. To leave a message: 1-613-728-0826 ext. 81609.

The new leader in photo-editing

COREL PHOTO-PAINT™ 5 plus!

The Best in Photo-Editing and Bitmap Creation

Corel PHOTO-PAINT 5 Plus includes a powerful color management system and all the tools you will need to paint, edit and retouch your images. With dynamic special effects such as mesh warp, swirl, pinch and 3D perspectives, and the ability to import or scan photos, creating your own design is easy with Corel PHOTO-PAINT.

Productivity!

- Load and edit partial images
- Enter text directly on screen
- Accurate color calibration system
- Corel MOSAIC
- Corel CAPTURE

Creativity!

- Over 50 image enhancement filters
- Precise photo-retouching
- Amazing special effects
- Create your own palettes and brushes

Easy to Use!

- 1,000 photo images
- 10,000 clipart images
- 100 TrueType and Type 1 fonts
- Intuitive user interface
- Comprehensive documentation

CD-ROM version

$139.98

After Cue Discount
Price in US$ plus applicable taxes
SKU#180976

Call for the location of the Egghead Software store nearest you. To order directly from our Eggspress Ordering Service, please call 1-800-EGGHEAD.

EGGHEAD SOFTWARE
North America's Software Eggperts

Eggspress Ordering 1-800-EGGHEAD Call Direct

Hearing and Speech Impaired customers can reach us by calling 1-800-949-3447 TDD.

COREL
1-613-728-3733

KUR-0078 US

Great Christmas Gifts from Corel

COREL FLOW™
For Windows

- Create diagrams, flowcharts, organization charts and floor plans
- Over 2,000 "drag and drop" symbols
- 1,000 clipart images
- 1,000 photos
- 100 TrueType fonts
- Automatic symbol connectors
- The best flowcharting value on the market

$69.90*

COREL GALLERY™
For Windows and Macintosh

- Create your own holiday cards or party invitations
- 10,000 clipart images and symbols (6,000 in color)
- Select an image using the handy full-color reference manual or on-line browser

$39.90*

COREL™ PROFESSIONAL PHOTOS CD-ROM Sampler II
For Windows or Macintosh

- Perfect as a screen saver
- 100 high-resolution photos
- Selected from Corel Professional Photos—the world's leading Photo CD-ROM collection
- Royalty-free stock photography

$15.90*

Special Offer!

~~$99~~
$49.90*
FOR BOTH
or available separately at $49.95 S.L.P.*

Corel *ArtShow 5* (coffee-table book and companion CD-ROM) features over 3,000 incredible illustrations and designs from the Corel $1,000,000 World Design Contest.

***The World's Best Digital Photographs* (cottee-table book and companion CD-ROM) protiles 120 images selected from Corel Professional Photos, the world's leading photo CD-ROM collection.**

Available for a limited time only.

TigerDirect
Please mention code BML
1-800-CD-TIGER
1-800-238-4437
KUR-0069

COREL®
1-613-728-3733

*US$ plus applicable taxes.

IN THE MORNING,

YOU PRINT

OUT A LASER SHARP

BLACK AND WHITE

PROSPECTUS FOR YOUR

NEW CLIENT.

IN THE AFTERNOON,

IT'S YET

ANOTHER SET OF

FINANCIAL

REPORTS TO THE

ACCOUNTANT.

After dinner,

it's a dozen colorful

invitations

for your three

year old's

birthday party.

When you consider how important quality time is, and how little of it there seems to be, it's nice to have the kind of printer that can deliver more of it. Both at work and at home. Introducing the affordable BJC-4000 color printer from Canon. The quality of its black and white output and print speed is better than most lasers. While the color quality of the new Canon BJC-4000 is simply brilliant. Call us at 1-800-848-4123 for details. It will be time well spent.

Canon

© 1994 Canon Computer Systems Inc. Canon is registered trademark of Canon Inc. CCSI 2995 Red Hill Ave. Costa Mesa CA 92626. In Canada call (800) 263 1121

Disney
SOFTWARE

Compatible with IBM/Windows. Macintosh version coming soon.

Pounce!
click
Read
play
Simba
click
explore
ROAR
Mufasa
laugh
click
Timon
Pumbaa
Read
learn
discover

Disney's Animated StoryBook "The Lion King" on CD-ROM.

With the click of a mouse, the wonder of "The Lion King" comes to life. Your child can control the action of the story and interact with the characters through narration, animation, sound effects and songs as they virtually step into the Pride Lands to feel the drama firsthand.

It's a classic Disney tale enhanced by the power of CD-ROM, providing a unique experience to share time after time, creating your own Circle of Life.

A free "The Lion King" mouse pad included for a limited time.

©DISNEY

It's a Game of Inches.

GREEN ENERGY
MAG INNOVISION

SERVICE & RELIABILITY
PC MAGAZINE
READERS' CHOICE

3-YEAR
LIMITED
WARRANTY

MAG INNOVISION DX17F

Microprocessor-based, digitally controlled 17-inch color monitor

ESTIMATED RETAIL PRICE **$799**

SOME USE SIZE TO THEIR ADVANTAGE.

SURE THERE'S SIMILARITIES WHEN IT COMES TO ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS (GREEN ENERGY-EPA ENERGY STAR, VESA DPMS, NO CFC, SWEDAC MPR II).

AND PRICE IS SIMILAR.

BUT FOR THE PRICE, SIZE IS ON OUR SIDE (118 SQUARE INCHES).

THEN THERE'S A DOT PITCH OF 0.26MM AND A 1280 x 1024 MAXIMUM RESOLUTION.

SO INCH FOR INCH, YOU'RE GETTING MORE.

A BIG REASON WHY MAG INNOVISION IS THE LARGEST 17-INCH COLOR MONITOR MANUFACTURER IN THE WORLD FOR PC'S AND COMPATIBLES. NO OTHER MANUFACTURER EVEN COMES CLOSE.

And Some Just Don't Measure Up.

NEC 4FGe

Microprocessor-based, digitally controlled 15-inch color monitor

ESTIMATED STREET PRICE **$755**

AND SOME FIND IT DIFFICULT TO HANOLE.

THAT THEY AGREE ON (EPA ENERGY STAR, VESA DPMS, NO CFC, SWEDAC MPR II).

THAT'S TRUE.

SO WHY PAY FOR LESS (27 SQUARE INCHES LESS)?

YOU WON'T FIND THAT HERE.

NOT LESS.

SEE KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR AT COMDEX/FALL '94, BOOTH #L290.

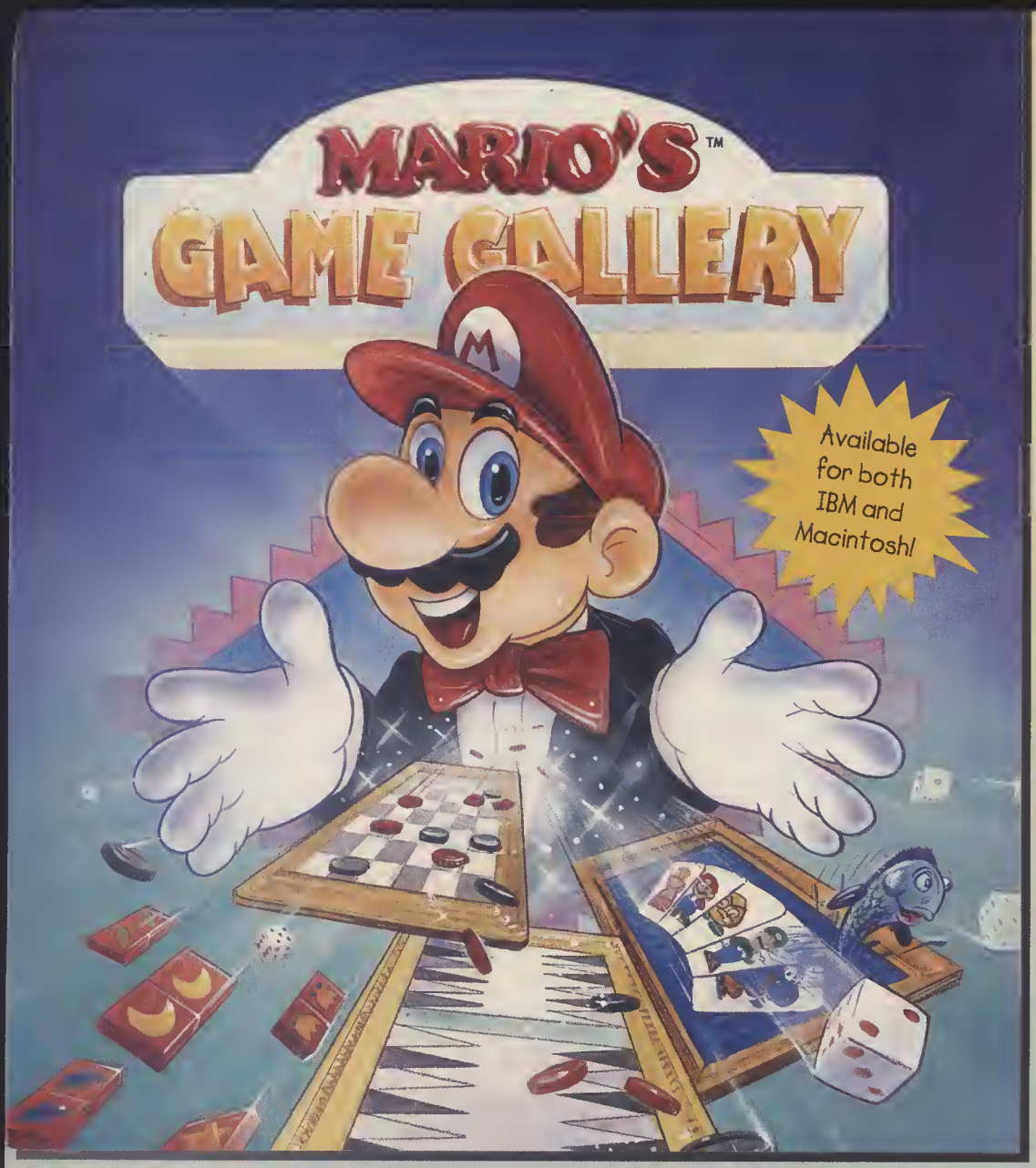
THE DX17F AND OTHER MAG INNOVISION MODELS ARE AVAILABLE AT BEST VALUE PRICES FROM:

COMPUTERS	1-800-723-9487
USA	1-800-846-0004
Insight	1-800-927-3192
PC Connection	1-800-800-7547
CDW	1-800-494-4CDW
MPC	1-800-672-8886

MAG INNOVISION

SO CALL US AT 1-800-827-3998 (1-714-751-2008 IN CA) FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS MONITOR.

MARIO'S™ GAME GALLERY



IBM screen shot

checkers

IBM screen shot

dominoes

IBM screen shot

go fish

Macintosh screen shot

backgammon

Macintosh screen shot

yacht

You Just Can't Lose With Mario™!

Play five of the world's most popular games with one of the world's most beloved characters.

Your family will love playing with Mario in these easy-to-play games for kids of all ages. Play checkers with Yoshi and the Koopa Troopers. Match the pictures in Dominoes. Test your memory with Go Fish. Wake the turtles in Backgammon. Or roll the dice against Mario in Yacht. Mario will charm you through each game with friendly and encouraging assistance. And with easy-to-read, on-screen instructions and the brilliantly detailed graphics, you'll be King of the Game Gallery in no time!

Call 1-800-969-GAME or see your local retailer.

Interplay™

MACPLAY™

© 1994 Interplay Productions. Mario's Game Gallery is a trademark of Interplay Productions. All rights reserved. © 1993 Nintendo. Mario, Luigi, and the Princess are trademarks of Nintendo. All rights reserved. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer,

HOMEPC

december 1994 vol.1, no.6

a cmp publication®

entertainment, education & productivity

features

102 Family projects for the holidays
Deck the halls (and living room and den) with the holiday gifts and decorations we'll show you how to make at your PC. *By Carolyn Jabs*

122 Letters to Santa (PC's, CD's...)
Do reindeer fly in cyberspace? We hope so, because Santa's e-mailbox is full. Join us for a peek at preteens' postings to the North Pole.

129 Great gifts under $100
Thirty suggestions destined to delight, plus a year-end index to the software our reviewers tapped as the best of 1994. *By Jerry Lazar*

157 The Yule catalogs
Our roundup of mail-order sources for a last-minute gift. *By Rebecca Day*

164 How to pick the perfect computer
To get what you want, first you have to know what you need. We spell out what makes a great PC tick, in plain English. *By Robert J. Atkinson*

173 The shopper's guide to monitors
Screen the field to make your choices crystal-clear. *By Robert J. Atkinson*

180 Memory not included
How to ensure DOS games don't hit a RAM jam. *By Jeremy Schlosberg*

192 Address for success
Get your holiday cards and other mail out fast and with a personal touch using your word processor's mail-merge feature. *By Hillary Rettig*

201 Getting into the college of your choice
Your PC can do just about everything for your college-bound kids except take their SATs for them. *By Steven Brewer*

homefront

21 From the Editor

41 Letters

47 Ask Dr. PC
Frozen mice; how to watch your software programs on TV; lost in fonts

buyer's guide

62 Hot Stuff!
Anti-glare glasses; sound Word advice; 3-D graphics for your printouts

76 Best Buys
Price protection; discount Bookshelf; backup to fit your budget

Cover photograph by Jack Reznicki Studio; hair and makeup by Deborah Engelsman

buyer's guide

215 Consumer Lab
Do PCs deliver good value? Our jury weighs the evidence in hands-on tests of eight popular models.

software reviews

91 Fun and Games
Terrace's squares throw strategists new curves and Lunicus is a blast. Also: Shadow of the Comet, Psychotron, Coaches Club Football and more.

259 Kid Raves
Beauty and the Beast does it again; Mario Teaches Typing, Discovering America and At Bat earn four stars. Also: new Mercer Mayer and more.

269 Home Library
Schubert's Trout Quintet makes beautiful music with CD-ROM; exploring World Atlas version 5; Space Missions grounded; Dinos on CD.

education

245 Preschool – Grade 3
Sing-along software hits the right notes, keeping kids entertained as they learn about music and melodies.

249 Grades 4 – 8
Anatomy of a software program: Send kids on a fantastic journey through the human body to teach them about science, sustenance and health.

253 Grades 9 – 12
Religion programs help teens reflect on the holiday season.

do-it-yourself

277 Nuts + Bolts
Need more power for multimedia? Follow our step-by-step instructions for installing a new processor chip.

283 Hobbies + Lifestyles
Paint programs are a stroke of luck for would-be artists.

personal productivity

293 Financial Adviser
Home-inventory software can't save your belongings should disaster strike, but it *can* save you some major headaches.

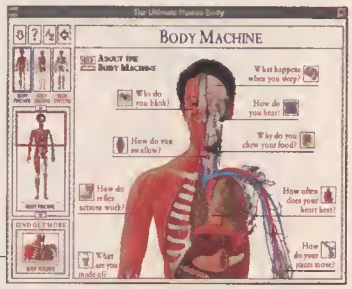
297 Working at Home
The ability to use files from different PCs and programs on your home computer is critical. Here's how to ensure you can get it all together.

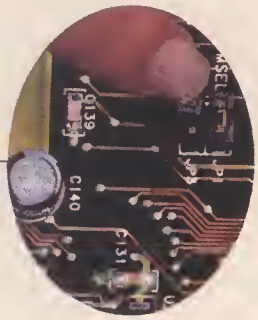
resources

307 On-line Connections
Your guide to holiday shopping at your PC.

325 Bookstore
A pretty PC primer; do-it-yourself stereograms

432 Finishing Touch
Yes, Virginia, Santa received your e-mail...





NEW MOUSEMAN SENSA REALLY GROWS ON YOU.

LOGITECH

NEW MOUSEMAN™ SENSA™. Wha knew self-expressian cauld feel this gaad. And Sensa can da sa much mare than just laak and feel great. Like reduce bathersome dauble clicking ta a single click, and campress tediaus paint and click cammands to the tauch af a buttan. Sensa. At yaur dealer in twa alluring textures and faur luxuriaus shades. Of course, MauseMan is still available in classic LagiGray. Ta get praduct infarmatian by fax, call 1-800-245-0000 and request dacument #4028.

MouseMan Sensa is guaranteed 'Plug and Play' compatible. ™ - registered trademark owned by Logitech.

$100 REBATE*

The EPSON ActionScanning System gives you creative freedom without creative financing.

Everything you need to scan and edit text and graphics for under $899*.

Easy and affordable scanning for the PC is here. It's called the EPSON ActionScanning System. EPSON makes it simple to put text and images in your documents.

With 600 dpi and 24-bit color, the ActionScanning System captures crisp, clear images. Great results are easy to achieve with EPSON's exclusive built-in controls.

The ActionScanning System comes with everything you need for productive scanning, including top-ranked image editing software Picture Publisher 4.0 LE, TextBridge OCR, interface board and cable, and a TWAIN driver for software compatibility. All this makes the ActionScanning System ideal for your home or office.

Considering that the entire system is available under $899,* buying an ActionScanning System is as easy as using one.

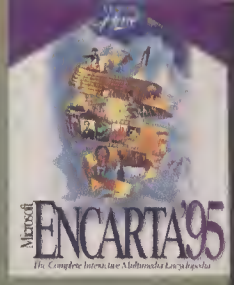
To see how far your creativity can go, visit your local authorized dealer or call **1-800-BUY-EPSON.**

EPSON

*$999 MSRP with $100 manufacturer's rebate from 9/1/94 to 12/31/94. © 1994 EPSON AMERICA, INC., 20770 Madrona Ave., Torrance, CA 90503. For rebate coupon, dealer referral or warranty details, call 800-BUY-EPSON (800-289-3776). In Canada, call 800-GO-EPSON. In Latin America, 305-265-0092. EPSON, Picture Publisher and TextBridge are trademarks or registered trademarks of SEIKO EPSON CORP, Micrografx, Inc. and Xerox Imaging Systems, Inc., respectively. Do not scan published material without permission of the copyright holder.

Forget Goldilocks and the
Tell us

Three Bears, about Sartre.



"C'MON DAD, tell us about Sartre and existentialism and his belief in the inescapable responsibility of all individuals for their own decisions and his relationship with Simone de Beauvoir,' we pleaded as he tucked us in for the night.

"Oh all right," he said as he loaded the Microsoft® Encarta™ multimedia encyclopedia into our personal computer and called up Sartre. This Encarta thing is crammed with 26,000 articles, 9 million words, 7,000 pictures, 800 maps, 100 video clips, 9 hours of sound, and all kinds of stuff about your favorite existentialists.

We click the mouse and we hear Martin Luther King, Jr. or Fidel Castro speak. (Castro is kinda hard to understand.) We can see the Berlin Wall being torn down or the propagation of a nerve impulse. We can rock out to Belgian guitarist Django Reinhardt or the Navajo Corn Grinding Song. Alas (a word we learned from our Microsoft Bookshelf® reference library), if we told you every single cool thing Encarta does, we'd be up all night and there'd be no time for Dad's bedtime stories about Sartre and the existentialists.

After he kissed us goodnight, Dad said Sartre was fond of saying, "Man is condemned to be free." We told him he was free to keep us up as long as he wanted with stories about Sartre. He chuckled, turned out the lights, and said, "I think you two have had enough existentialism for one night."

Microsoft®

If you'd like more information about the complete line of Microsoft products for your home PC, call 1-800-228-6229 ext. CRD. For some light bedtime reading, we suggest Sartre's Being and Nothingness. ©1994 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft and Bookshelf are registered trademarks and Encarta is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

Magic School Bus
L. INTESTINE
LARGE INTESTINE
The large intestine is about 6 feet long and 2 inches wide.

I brake for large intestines.

MOM SAID IF I WAS GOOD AND ATE ALL MY VEGETABLES I could go on a field trip with Ms. Frizzle in The Magic School Bus down Arnold's throat.

I ate every last turnip and joined Ms. Frizzle and the class in Scholastic's The Magic School Bus™ Explores the Human Body. My dad used some big words and called it "an interactive science adventure from Microsoft that explores how the human body works."

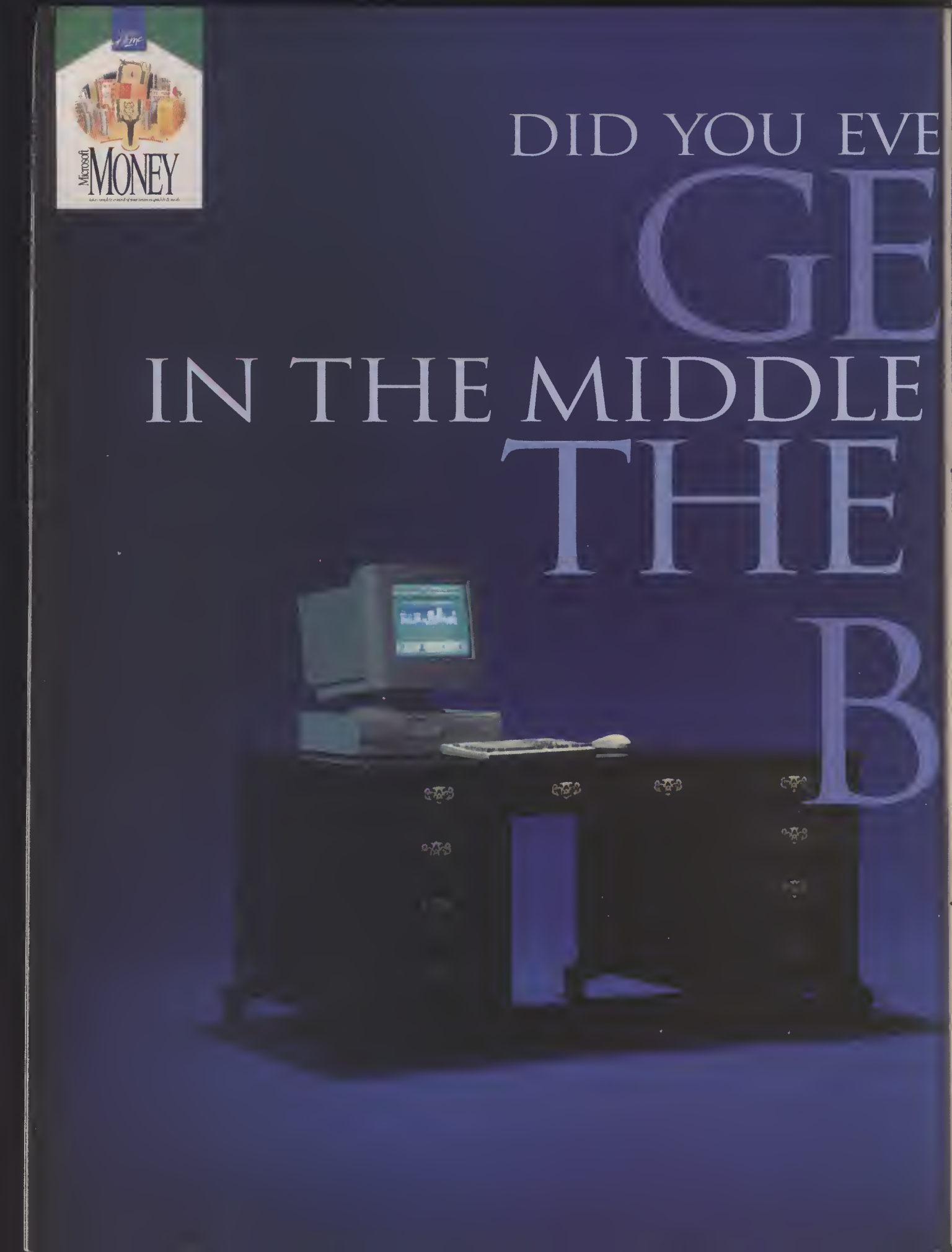
I haven't had this much fun on a field trip since Danny Kennedy got stuck in the bathroom at the museum. We drove all around Arnold's body. We saw the four chambers of his heart. We saw what Arnold ate for lunch. We saw a white blood cell turn into a police car and fight off germs. We even got to play a learning game in every part of Arnold's body we visited.

Have you ever played a game in somebody's liver? It's pretty cool, but not as cool as where Ms. Frizzle is taking me in her Magic School Bus next week. She's taking me on a trip through the universe (courtesy of Scholastic's The Magic School Bus Explores the Solar System). I wonder how many turnips Mom is going to make me eat for that one.

Microsoft®

If you'd like more information about field trips down the esophagus and the complete line of Microsoft products for your home PC, call 1-800-228-6229 ext. DJ7. In Canada call 1-800-563-9048. And don't forget to watch Scholastic's The Magic School Bus on PBS ASAP. ©1994 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation. The Magic School Bus is a trademark of Scholastic Inc.

DID YOU EVE GE IN THE MIDDLE THE B



R HAVE TO T UP OF NIGHT AND GO TO THE ANK?

IF YOU'VE NEVER AMORTIZED A LOAN IN YOUR PAJAMAS, you've never amortized a loan.

If this sounds intriguing, you might be interested in Microsoft® Money. It's the fast and easy way to control your finances in the middle of the night or the middle of the afternoon.

You can pay all your bills and manage all your investments and have your securities portfolio automatically updated and plan for retirement and compare loan rates and plan a budget and prepare tax information and keep track of all your expenses and even bank on line. And what else? Best of all, you can do all this in your pajamas. Now, if you don't think that's such a big deal, try walking into a bank dressed in your pajamas.

Microsoft®

If you'd like more information about the joys of banking in your pajamas and the complete line of Micro oft products for your home PC, call 1 800 228 6229 ext. FF6. In Canada call 1 800 563 9048. And now, the really small legal type: Online services, such as bill paying and getting quotes, are available for a monthly fee. The really cool online banking feature is only available from really cool banks. ©1994 Micro oft Corporation. All rights reserved. Micro oft is a registered trademark of Micro oft Corporation.

Microsoft Office meets Sound Blaster.

(So much for business as usual.)

How do you improve on the world's best business software? Add in the world's best-selling sound card and CD-ROM.

The new Sound Blaster Multimedia Office™ is the latest mega-merger in business computing. It has everything you need to put multimedia to work for your business. A Sound Blaster 16-bit sound card with Advanced Signal Processing. A double-speed CD-ROM. And Microsoft® Office Professional—the ultimate Windows™ software.

What's more, you get a microphone, headphones, and Creative VoiceAssist™ software. So you can navigate your way through Windows applications using voice commands. Plus, with Creative TextAssist™ software, you can have your spreadsheets, e-mail and documents read back to you.

Of course, with Microsoft Office Professional you get Excel,® Word,® PowerPoint,® Access,® and Mail.®** You also get Microsoft Encarta®—the best-selling multimedia encyclopedia. You even get an Office Professional training system on CD-ROM.

Sound interesting? Just visit your nearest Creative Labs dealer. Or call 1-800-998-5227 Ext. 109.

CREATIVE
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE

*Estimated street price for Sound Blaster Multimedia Office: under $550.00. Estimated street price for Microsoft Office Professional (and Encarta): $699.00 **Microsoft Mail is a workstation license; must acquire Microsoft Mail program separately. All Microsoft Office Professional documentation is provided in an easy to use on-line format. ©1994 Creative Technology Ltd. The Sound Blaster and Creative Logos are registered trademarks. Sound Blaster Multimedia Office, Creative VoiceAssist, Creative TextAssist and the Sound Blaster Compatibility Logo are trademarks of Creative Technology Ltd. All other trademarks are the property of their respective holders.
U.S. inquiries: Creative Labs 1-800-998-5227. International inquiries: Creative Technology Ltd., Singapore. TEL: 65-773-0233. FAX: 65-773-0353.

from the editor

'Tis the season to be jolly (about having a PC)

I don't know about you, but I start dreading the winter holiday season in October. Long before the Hallowcen pumpkins begin to spoil, cardboard turkeys start showing up in store windows. And this year, Hanukkah arrives around the time the last remains of the Thanksgiving turkey have taken up permanent rcsidence in the freezer. December, of course, will be dominated by preparations for Christmas and New Year's. Just thinking about all the planning, shopping and cooking that lies ahead is enough to get busy people dreaming about disappearing to the Bahamas until Valentine's Day.

Using a computer to help manage the holidays may seem inappropriate for a season so steeped in tradition, but once you see how it can help you through the mailings and last-minutc shopping and providc hours of family activities, you'll agrce that tomorrow's traditions have to start somewhere! (You'll find lots of great tips for using your computer this holiday season in the features starting on page 102.)

The widespread use of home computers also makes it simpler to come up with great gift ideas for relatives, fricnds and co-workers. We'll show you a variety of the unique gifts available for the computer uscr that won't deplete the family budgct. You won't be sticking your ncck out on a cute mouse pad shaped like a giraffe ($10) or drowning in debt for buying The Wetsuit ($40), a waterproof carrying case for a laptop. And because we know therc's nothing worse than giving a friend a copy of the It's A Wondcrful Life Multimedia Edition CD-ROM only to discover she doesn't havc cnough memory to run it, wc'll walk you through the ways you can make the most of the mcmory that's available on a PC.

If this is the year you've decidcd to splurge and buy another computer for your home (or for a fortunate child or grandchild), this issue of *HomePC* will help you sort through the shopping confusion. Should you go for the latest technology and pick up a Pentium multimedia or PowerPC machine? Or is a 486 computer the better buy and, if so, what type of 486 PC is best? Is the monitor that comes with the system good enough, or should you shop for a better one? Our buyer's guides to PCs (pagc 164) and monitors (page 173) have the answers.

In addition to offering you expert advice on what to buy, we also invited a team of consumers just like you to test eight of the top computer brands you may be considcring as purchases. Our testers, ranging from novices to more advanccd users, busily unpacked computcrs, set them up and put them through thcir paces to find out if thcy were easy to use, which featurcs were most appealing and which features thcy could do without, which brand offered the most valuable extras, from preloaded software to special fcatures such as television hookups and telephonc answering machines—in short, they asked many of thc same qucstions you would ask about any system you wanted to buy. Their ratings and the reasons behind them are described in our Consumer Lab report, starting on pagc 215. Also included is a handy tear-out shopping guide (after page 238) you can take to thc store to compare the computers

Photograph by Danuta Otfinowski

Play CD-ROMs and Multimedia from Any Printer Port!

You want to use the latest multimedia, video, education, and interactive entertainment software without spending hours installing your new CD-ROM drive.

ParaSCSI plus from Linksys is just the answer. It's a fast plug-and-play CD-ROM interface with three connectors. Plug one into your PC's parallel port. Plug another into your CD-ROM drive. Plug the third into your printer. And play.

- *Access up to 7 CD-ROM drives and other SCSI devices simultaneously without losing access to your printer.*
- *Compatible with all CD-ROM software titles.*
- *Supports any standard or Enhanced Parallel Port (EPP).*
- *Fastest parallel-to-SCSI adapter available, with data transfer rates of up to 1 MB per second.*
- *Extensive software suite ensures compatibility with thousands of SCSI-I and SCSI-II devices.*

LINKSYS™
Making Connectivity Easier

1-800-546-5797

you are evaluating with our recommended specifications.

For those of you with college-bound high school seniors at home, the holiday season is also the time for another family ritual. Nothing brings parents and teens together quite so much as asking for the 50th time, "Did you fill out your college applications yet?" For the procrastinators or the faint-hearted, software is now available to help zero in on the right college, speed applications and locate those hard-to-find scholarships. Be sure to put our story, beginning on page 201, at the top of your reading list.

This month we are also launching a new personal productivity department called Working at Home (page 297). With an estimated 40 million Americans working at home full- or part-time, close to 9 million telecommuters and millions of office workers bringing their jobs home in the evening and over the weekend, there is a tremendous need for information on computer products that make working at home easier and more productive. And that's just what our new section will provide.

Our congratulations to Steve Prefontaine of Green Bay, Wis., our latest contest winner. Steve won a Citizen Projet II ink jet printer in our September survey prize drawing. I encourage all our readers to fill out this month's editorial survey (across from page 370) for the opportunity to win more free prizes. And if you haven't sent in your entry for the Computer Learning Foundation contest (distributed in our October and November issues), please do so quickly—the deadline is Nov. 30. If you need an entry form, call the Computer Learning Foundation at (415) 327-3347.

No doubt about it, the holidays can be draining. But when all is said and done it's worth it to spend time with family and friends. On behalf of all of us at *HomePC*, I'd like to wish all of you a very happy, healthy holiday season. •

Ellen Pearlman

Ellen Pearlman,
Editor-in-Chief

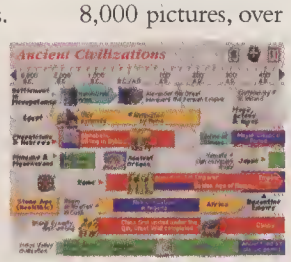
For anyone who's ever looked into a starry sky and said *"I wonder..."*

An array of multimedia features and graphical entry points make every search a unique, multifaceted experience.

Imagine the twisting swirl of the Milky Way's one hundred billion stars. Near the outer edge is a star we call the Sun. Circling it is a tiny blue dot we call home.

Making sense of ourselves, our world and the universe around us is a lifelong adventure. Now there's a CD-ROM reference that will take you and your family to exciting new levels of understanding.

The 1995 *Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia* brings together over 6 exciting hours of multimedia features, including 8,000 pictures, over 325 maps, scores of videos, animations, Knowledge Explorer™ Audio-Visual Essays and Multimedia Maps. It doesn't only outpace the competition it widens the gap.



Watch history repeat itself with the all-new interactive ***Timeline.***

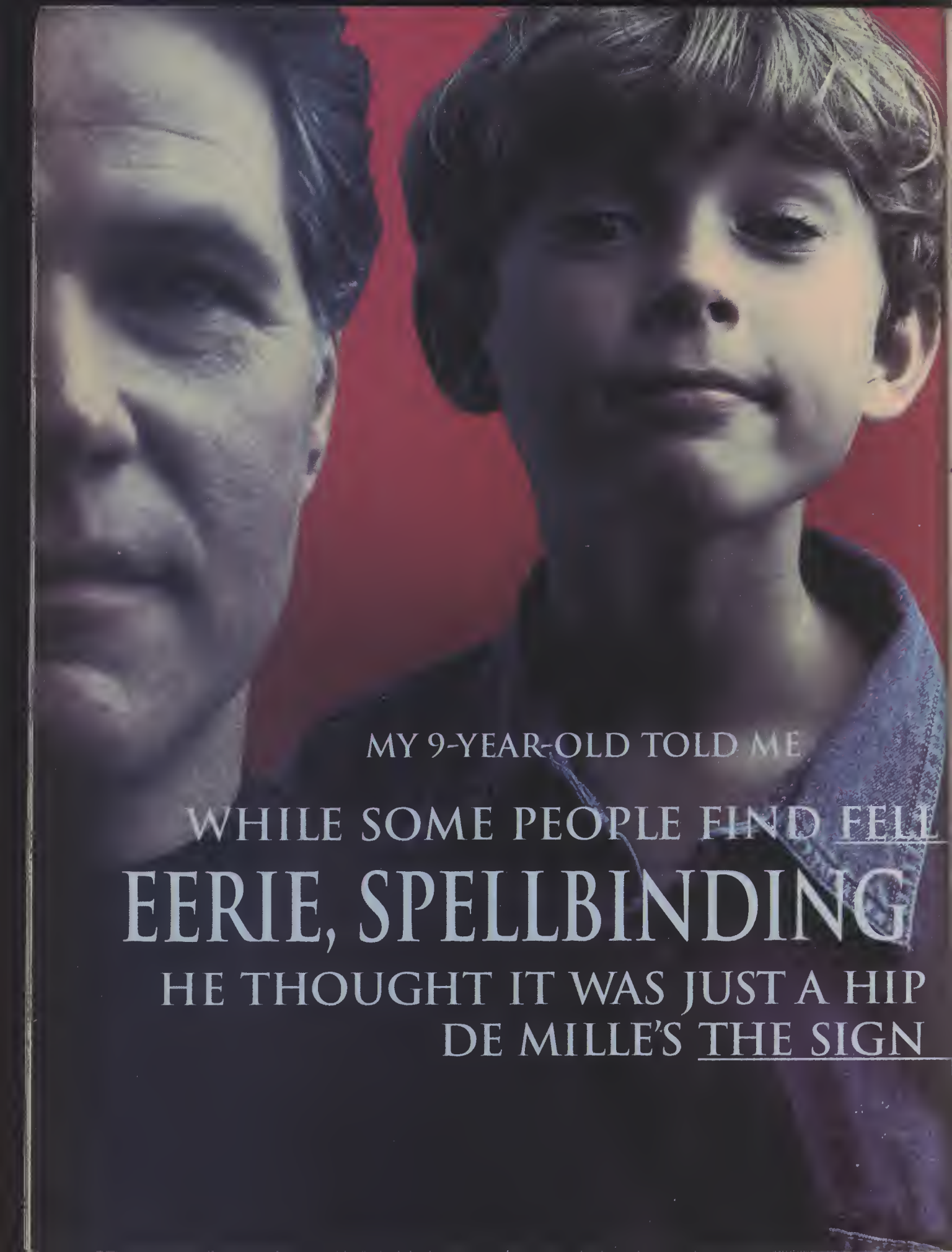
For more information, call us at **(800) 285-4534.**

With the new ***Pathmakers*** *feature, your personal tutors are leading figures in their fields.*

THE 1995
GROLIER
MULTIMEDIA ENCYCLOPEDIA

WHERE WONDERS NEVER CEASE

Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia and Knowledge Explorer are trademarks of Grolier Electronic Publishing, Inc. © 1995 Grolier Incorporated


MY 9-YEAR-OLD TOLD ME
WHILE SOME PEOPLE FIND FELL
EERIE, SPELLBINDING
HE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A HIP
DE MILLE'S THE SIGN

"AND WHEN YOU GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT," my son further noted, "Federico's cautionary images of depravity are no match for Cecil B.'s juicy vision of Nero as a voluptuous connoisseur of agonies."

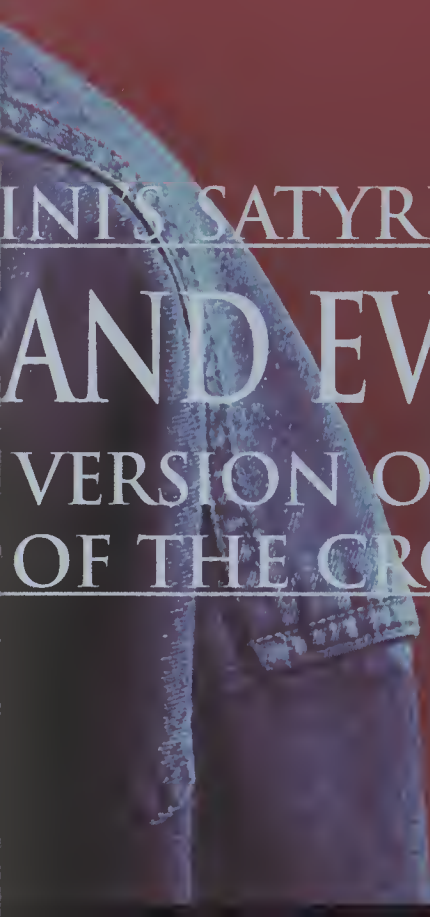
I promptly asked him who taught him such language? He told me he learned it all from noted film critic Pauline Kael who was now residing in his personal computer thanks to the Microsoft® Cinemania® program.

He explained the thing was an interactive movie guide with over 20,000 film reviews from the likes of Leonard Maltin, Roger Ebert, and his personal favorite, Kael. It helps him pick out which movies to rent and which ones to stay as far away as possible from. It also had "bitchin" features like video clips from some of the most popular movies of all time, theme songs from 100 movies, 900 movie stills and 4,000 bios of bigwigs in the movies.

Then he asked me if I knew Fellini held jobs as a crime reporter and a caricature artist before he broke into the film business as a gag writer for actor Aldo Fabrizi? "Who doesn't?," I replied as I headed to his room to look for this Cinemania thing.

Microsoft®

If you'd like more information about the complete line of Microsoft products for your home PC, call 1-800-228-6229 ext. DQY. In Canada call 1-800-563-9048. For more information about the "splendid excess" of *Fellini's Satyricon*, call my son. ©1994 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved Microsoft and Cinemania are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation.

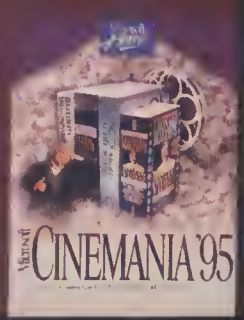


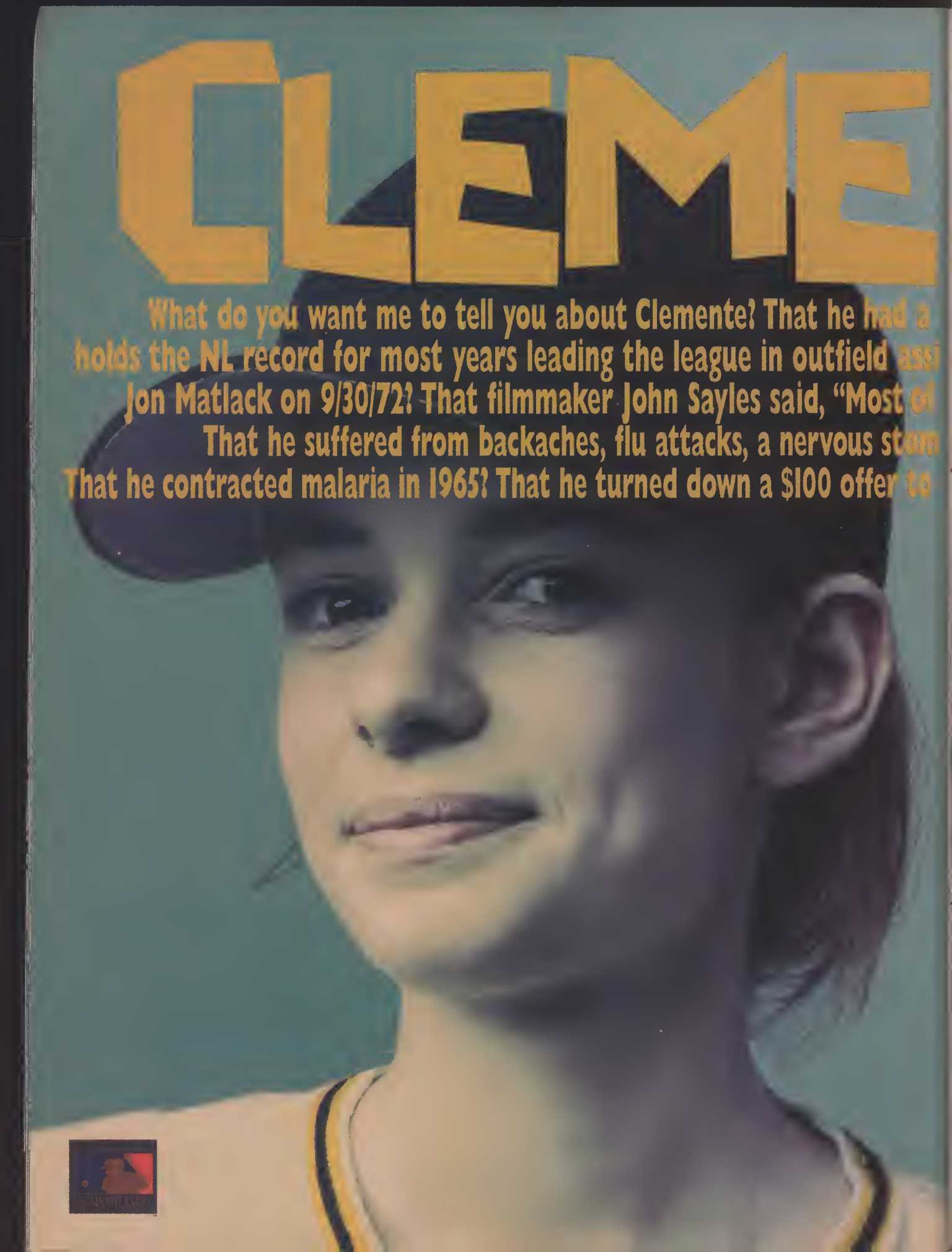
INI'S SATYRICON

AND EVEN PROFOUND,

VERSION OF

OF THE CROSS.




CLEME
What do you want me to tell you about Clemente? That he had a
holds the NL record for most years leading the league in outfield assi
Jon Matlack on 9/30/72? That filmmaker John Sayles said, "Most of
That he suffered from backaches, flu attacks, a nervous stom
That he contracted malaria in 1965? That he turned down a $100 offer to

NTE!?

.317 lifetime average! That he won 12 Gold Gloves! That he
ts with five! That he got his 3,000th and final hit off the Mets'
what I know about style I learned from Roberto Clemente"?
ch, diarrhea, infected tonsils, headaches and bone chips!
be in the film "The Odd Couple"? Or that he was right-handed!

I'M NOT JUST A CLEMENTE FREAK. I know a ton of other stuff about baseball. For example, New York Giants outfielder Monte Irvin was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1972, the same year as Clemente.

I know all this stuff 'cause I got Microsoft® Complete Baseball. It's a multimedia encyclopedia that has more stuff about Clemente and Abner Doubleday's fabled 1839 invention than Nolan Ryan has strikeouts. (Did you know Clemente only fanned 1,230 times in 9,454 at bats?)

It's loaded with stats on every player who ever played and photo-crammed bios of 2,500 major leaguers, from Hank Aaron (who, incidentally, had 68 fewer career triples than Clemente) to Carl Yaztrzemski (whose .285 lifetime average is 32 points lower than Clemente's).

You can see some of baseball's coolest moments on video, including Clemente teammate Bill Mazeroski's 1960-World-Series-winning-game-seven-ninth-inning homerun off Ralph Terry.

There's even a trivia quiz so you can see how much you know about the game, its legends like Clemente, and its great seasons like 1971 when the Pirates won the World Series and Clemente was named Series MVP. If, for some strange reason, you're more of a basketball or golf fan, there's Microsoft Complete NBA™ Basketball and the Microsoft Golf game -- two sports which Roberto Clemente never played.

Microsoft

If you'd like more information about the Complete Baseball, Microsoft Baseball, Baseball, Pirates, Complete Baseball, Microsoft Baseball, Microsoft Baseball, Microsoft

MARVEL COMICS' X-MEN ARE COMING TO SAVE YOUR SCREEN WITH POWERHOUSE MUTANT ACTION! EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE X-MEN ARE READY TO RUMBLE: WOLVERINE SHREDS YOUR DESKTOP, MAGNETO WREAKS HAVOC, AND CYCLOPS LETS LOOSE WITH HIS OPTIC BLASTS... ALSO, THE X-MEN SCREEN SAVER INCLUDES THE FAMOUS AFTER DARK ENGINE, AND IT'S COMPATIBLE WITH ALL AFTER DARK DISPLAYS.

- FULL-COLOR ANIMATED DISPLAYS
- ACTION-PACKED SOUND EFFECTS
- SCREEN-LOCKING SECURITY SYSTEM
- WALLZAPPER™ INSTANT WALLPAPER CREATOR

BERKELEY SYSTEMS
2095 Rose St. • Berkeley, CA 94709

FOR MAC AND WINDOWS

Marvel Comics, X-MEN and all character names and distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. and are used with permission. ©1994 Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. After Dark, the Flying Toaster logo, and the BSI logo are registered trademarks of Berkeley Systems, Inc. Letterbot Font © 1994 Richard Starkings & Comicraft.

To Order Call 800-344-5541, Ext: 156

HOMEPC

a cmp publication®

Publisher.....**Dan Schwartz**
Editor-in-Chief.....**Ellen Pearlman**
Executive Editor.....**Amy Lipton**
Art Director.....**David Loewy**
Features Editor.....**Andrea Linne**
Assistant Managing Editor.....**Steven Korn**

Departments Editor.....**Melanie Berger**
Articles Editor.....**Jennifer Zaino**

Senior Editor/Education.....**Carol Ellison**
Senior Editor/Entertainment.....**Julie Cohen**
Senior Technology Editor.....**Sean Fulton**
Senior Editor.....**Rob Kelly**

Assistant Art Director.....**James Keleher**
Senior Production Editor.....**Bill Mallon**

Lab Assistant.....**Sun Ying-Tam**
Editorial Assistant.....**Jennifer Triverio**
On-line Projects Manager.....**Mia DiGiovanni**
Editorial Intern.....**Melissa Gelb**

Contributing Editors: Sharon McCoy Bell, Charles Bowen, Warren Buckleitner, Richard Fentz, Carolyn Jabs, Pam Kane, Jeremy Schlosberg

Educational Advisory Board: Sharon McCoy Bell, *director of educational technology, New Orleans Public Schools*; Ellen Bialo, *president, Interactive Educational Systems Design*; Warren Buckleitner, *editor of* The Children's Software Revue; Richard Fentz, *manager of training and instruction, Kent (Wash.) School District*; Sue Kamp, *education project manager, Software Publishers Association*; Carol Klenow, *director of information resources, Oakland Schools, Waterford, Mich.*; Nadia Makar, *coordinator college/industry relations, Union City (N.J.) Schools*; Bernajeen Porter, *technical consultant, Colorado State Board of Education*; Mary Claire Scanlon, *president, Scanlon & Associates, educational consulting*

HomePC would like to hear from you. Have a question about a story? Having great successes or nagging problems with your home computer? Send your letters, comments and suggestions to the editor. Need advice? Send your letters to Ask Dr. PC or call our toll-free number listed below. We'll answer as many questions as possible in future issues of *HomePC*. You can also contact our editors through our America Online interactive area (use first names, followed by HPC). America Online members can reach us by selecting Keyword from the GoTo menu and typing HomePC, or clicking on the Departments button at the bottom of the welcome screen, then clicking on the Newsstand button and then on HomePC. If you would like more information about America Online, call (800) 827-6364.

Editorial telephone: *(516) 562-7673*
Dr. PC telephone: *(800) DOC-IS-IN*
Fax: *(516) 562-7007*

Letters: HomePC
600 Community Drive
Manhasset, N.Y. 11030

Publishing Division
Vice President/Editorial Director: **Bob Evans**
Design Director: **Joe McNeill**
Consumer Media Group
Vice President/Group Publisher: **E. Drake Lundell**

CMP Publications, Inc.
President: **Michael S. Leeds**
President of Publishing: **Kenneth D. Cron**
President of International: **Daniel H. Leeds**
Executive Vice President: **Grace Monahan**
Vice President/Treasurer: **Pearl Turner**
Co-chairpersons, Board of Directors:
Gerard G. Leeds, Lilo J. Leeds

Subscriber information: To obtain information and/or order a subscription, call (800) 829-0119 or (904) 445-4662, ext. 420. U.S.: One year (12 issues) $21.97. Two years (24 issues) $36.97. Canada/Mexico: add $10 per year for postage. Overseas: add $18 per year for postage. All foreign orders must be accompanied by payment in U.S. funds. Send address changes to *HomePC*, P.O. Box 420213, Palm Coast, FL 32142.

For reprints, call (800) 682-4972 or (516) 733-6852. **For back issues and articles,** call (516) 562-5212.

In addition to America Online, *HomePC* is also available through a variety of electronic services. For more information, call 516-562-7405.

Printed in the U.S.A. Copyright© 1994 by CMP Media, a partnership. All rights reserved. *HomePC* is a trademark of CMP Media, Inc., and is used under license from the owner.

Before buying or installing any product mentioned in this publication, read your owner's manual or ask a salesperson to be sure it's compatible with your current home computer equipment. Neither CMP Media, CMP Publications, Inc., their affiliates, employees or freelancers are responsible for any injury or property damage resulting from the application of any information published by *HomePC*.

are you out of your MIND?

You will be after you play *frantic factory!*

We throw you quick **word puzzles,** challenge your **word skills,** then push you to the limits of your knowledge...and we don't quit there**!**

Start playing our beginner, intermediate or advanced **levels** and you won't be able to stop**!** And when you can't stop, it means you keep learning about things like **famous inventors, planets** and the **human body.** But wait! What are we doing? We can't give away all the secrets.

Pick up **Frantic Factory** yourself. But be **warned.** Once you get it, your **mind** may never be the same again**!**

Frantic Factory.
A Race of Wits and Words Against Time.

Virgin SOUND AND VISION

Available on Macintosh and Windows

©1994 Virgin Sound and VisionAll rights reserved.

Whose tu
to walk the r

I KNOW A PET RHINO IS A RATHER RISKY PROPOSITION, given it weighs 2,000 lbs., can run up to 35 miles per hour and has a somewhat nasty habit of goring enemies with its horn.

But, as my son will tell you, compared to our man-eating great white shark, the leaf-eating rhino isn't really all that dangerous.

No, my name isn't Noah. And, no, I don't have a big boat. But what I do have is Microsoft® Dangerous Creatures. It's a multimedia program filled with tons of articles, pictures, narration, sound and video featuring 250 of the wildest creatures on this planet.

We can hire a guide to take us on an Amazon safari or a coral reef dive. We can pay a visit to the Komodo dragon in Indonesia. We can have the daylights scared out of us by watching a school of piranhas devour its lunch in seconds. Or we can have dinner with the warthogs. Boy, do they ever eat like pigs.

Microsoft®

If you'd like more information about rhinoceros do's and don'ts and the complete line of Microsoft products for your home PC, call 1-800 228-6229 ext. MUQ. In Canada call 1-800-563-9048. ©1994 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

rn is it hinoceros?

ties Window

Within its cool,

pebbled case,

there is

joy and laughter,

awe and wonder,

light, motion,

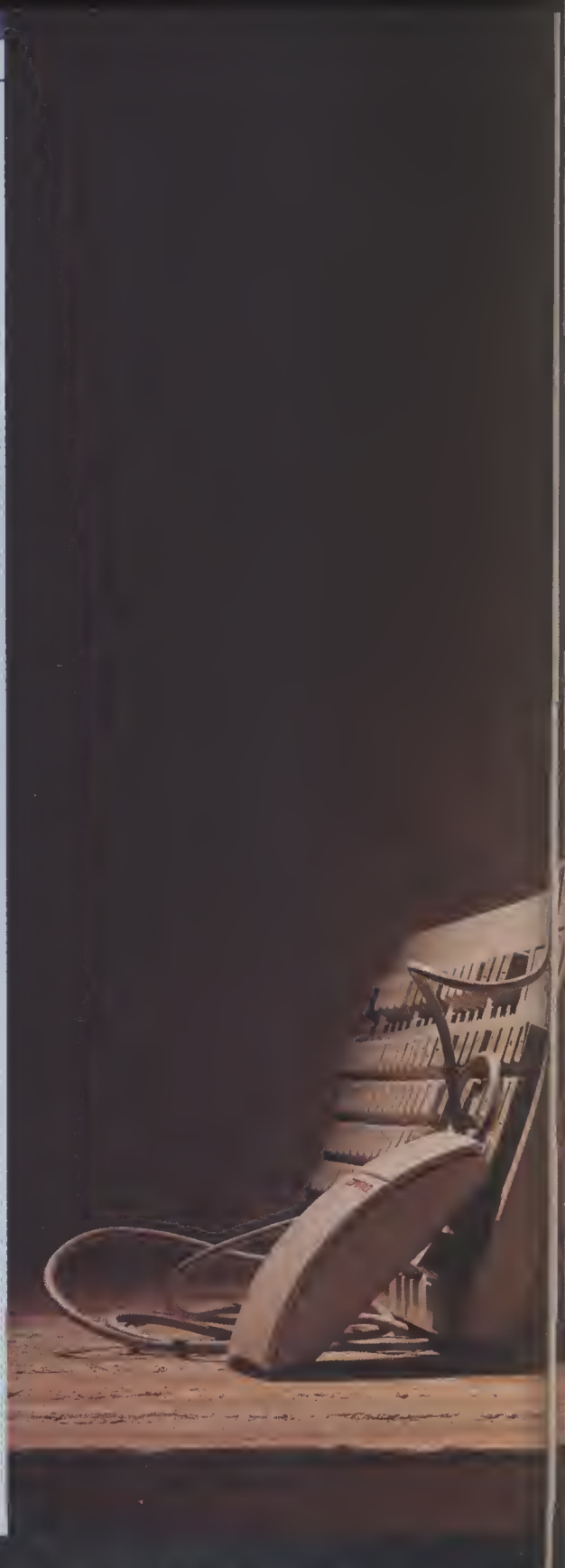
sight and sound.

And yet,

people still insist

on calling

it a computer.



This is the new Compaq Presario. It's a family of computers that lets you do things. Things no mere computers can do. You'll notice the difference when you turn one on. It's easy — from using the CD-ROM drive to watch a bedtime story, to the MediaPilot™ that guides you through its features. You can talk on its

© 1994 Compaq Computer Corporation. All rights reserved. Compaq, Presario registered U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. MediaPilot is a trademark of Compaq Computer Corporation. *TV available on PCTV models only.

speakerphone or it can take a message. You can fax on it or do computing on it — even while watching TV* on it. About the only thing you can't do is spend a lot of money on it. You can call it a computer if you want. All we ask is that you don't think of it as one.

COMPAQ

NEW! Version 2.0

Bounce bloopers. Get bravos.

*New version 2.0. Now add sound, titles and special effects!**

VideoDirector® 2.0 for Windows™ by Gold Disk® lets you edit videotapes just the way you want, getting rid of bloopers and blunders, and putting your favorite shots in a sequence you prefer. Just install the VideoDirector software on your PC and connect the included VideoDirector SmartCable to your VCR and camcorder. You'll love the VCR-like on-screen controls to mark the stop and start points of the clips you like. Give your clips a name and save them in VideoDirector's library. Next, drag and drop your clips in the order you want and hit the "Make Tape" button. That's it. While you relax, VideoDirector tells your VCR to assemble a perfectly-edited videotape. And best of all, with version 2.0 you can enhance viewing enjoyment with sound, titles and special effects. So what are you waiting for? Pick up the phone and order VideoDirector today. And get ready for the rave reviews.

Order today! 1(800)982-9888, Monday - Friday, 6 am - 6 pm PST

GOLD DISK

HPC12/94

* *Additional hardware required for sound, titles and special effects.*

' *Gold Disk Inc. 1994. Gold Disk, the Gold Disk logo and VideoDirector are registered trademarks of Gold Disk Inc. Please allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. ** Plus $6 shipping and handling. Dealer price may vary.*

HOMEPC

a cmp publication®

Vice President/Group Publisher:
E. Drake Lundell, Jr.

Publisher: Dan Schwartz
600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030
516-562-5750; Fax: 516-562-7665

Associate Publisher/West: Gene Burns
2800 Campus Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403
415-525-4466; Fax: 415-525-4446

Eastern Regional Manager/Mid-Atlantic/Southeast: Pete Beckenbach
3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10010
212-592-8436; Fax: 212-592-8444
Account Executive: Patricia Berg
516-562-7717

Northern California: Carla Daiss
2800 Campus Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403
415-525-4465; Fax: 415-525-4446
Account Executive: Guy Zerega
516-562-7706

Southern California: Catherine Davenport
1849 Sawtelle Boulevard, Suite 650,
Los Angeles, CA 90025
310-473-9641; Fax: 310-477-3615
Account Executive: Ted Olczak
516-562-7718

New England: Gina Ciampa
300 Fifth Avenue, 5th Floor, Waltham, MA 02154
617-487-7512; Fax: 617-487-7599
Account Executive: Patricia Berg
516-562-7717

Midwest/Texas: Rick Burish
225 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2516,
Chicago, IL 60601
312-946-6600; Fax: 312-565-5943
Account Executive: Ed Rogers
516-562-7722

Northwest: Sharon Moss
320 108th Avenue, Bellevue, WA 98004
206-688-9956; Fax: 206-451-4797
Account Executive: Guy Zerega
516-562-7706

The HomePC Connection/Classified Advertising:
516-562-7173; Fax: 516-562-7665
Sales Representative: Robbin Siegel
600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030

Customer Service/Display Advertising/ Space Reservations:
516-562-7661; Fax: 516-562-5196
Manager: Fay Celles
Senior Advertising Coordinator: Denise Foley

Executive Assistant: Judy Condon

Production:
Group Production Manager: Anthony L. Strianse
Production Supervisor: Wil Cipp

Circulation/Research/Marketing:
Director of Business Planning and Circulation: Harold Buckley
Associate Circulation Director: Kathleen Shay
Newsstand Manager: Peter J. Birmingham
Senior Research Manager: Michael P. DeMilt
Marketing Manager: Mary Zagrobelny
Art Director: Hanna J. Packer

Publishing Division:
Vice President/Editorial Director: Bob Evans
Product Development Manager: Nancy Trespasz
Columnist & Strategic Adviser: Mark Stahlman
Business Manager: Ken Gallagher

Business Operations:
Chief Financial Officer: Joe Sichler
Director of Human Resources: Jeanne Jarvis-Meara
Conference Group Director: Peter Brunold
Director of Customer Service: Georgette Ross
Director of Manufacturing: Stephen J. Grande

EPIC

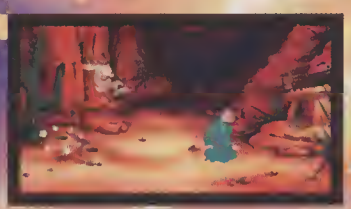
KING'S QUEST VII

THE PRINCELESS BRIDE

ENCHANTING

EVIL

EXPERIENCE THE MOST HEARTWARMINGLY HUMOROUS CINEMATIC ADVENTURE EVER. CREATOR ROBERTA WILLIAMS PRESENTS THE SEVENTH CHAPTER IN THE BEST-SELLING COMPUTER ADVENTURE SERIES OF ALL TIME: KING'S QUEST® VII: THE PRINCELESS BRIDE. JOIN PRINCESS ROSELLA AND HER MOTHER VALANICE AS THEY BATTLE THE EVIL ENCHANTRESS MALICIA FOR THE SURVIVAL OF THE MAGICAL REALM OF ELDRITCH. DON'T MISS THIS BREATHTAKINGLY BEAUTIFUL EPIC ADVENTURE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY. FOR YOUR COPY, SEE YOUR LOCAL DEALER OR CALL: 1 800-757-7707.



COMING SOON ON MULTIMEDIA CD

SIERRA®

Here Are 3 Constructive Ways To Improve Your Productivity.

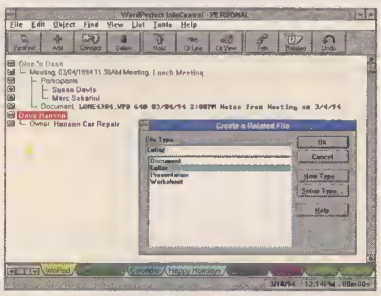
Now you can improve your ability to organize, create and communicate—Fast—with InfoCentral,™ WordPerfect® Works and ExpressFax™+.

They'll help you save time. Work smarter. And be more productive whether you are in your office, or at home.

Quicken Special Edition is everything you need to start organizing your personal finances and helps make you more productive than ever.

InfoCentral Lets You Organize Everything All At Once.

Meetings. Phone calls. Calendars. Lists. Places to be and people to see. ***WordPerfect® InfoCentral™*** automatically combines them all in one easy-to-read display. For total recall, at the touch of a button. It's easy to add information. And update it, too. And everything is connected in a variety of ways, so you can access it from different perspectives. It even includes pre-loaded information bases on travel, wines and consumer goods to help you get started. Nothing could be more efficient.



*Any information you want can be stored in **InfoCentral**. Just enter it once, and you can quickly access it anytime.*

Want To Be Instantly Creative? Give Yourself The Works.

With ***WordPerfect® Works***, you get five great tools in one easy-to-use package. It makes writing, budgeting, filing, drawing and painting easier than ever. Works lets you create sophisticated documents fast, so you can quickly make everything from a home budget to a company logo.

*You can create charts, graphs, spreadsheets and other sophisticated documents fast, all without ever leaving **Works**.*

And now included is Quicken® Special Edition, created especially for WordPerfect Works.

Make Your Modem Work Like Never Before With ExpressFax+.

ExpressFax™+ is actually three communication programs in one. First, ExpressFax+ lets you send and receive faxes from any application. Then it lets you bring incoming faxes directly into your word processing program, so you never waste time retyping.

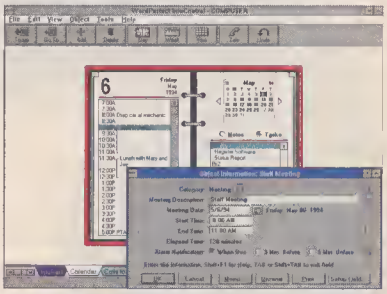
*With the push of a button, **ExpressFax+**, gives you access to all of your communication needs.*

Plus, ExpressFax+ is a communications center that connects you to electronic bulletin boards and information services, like America Online.

Put Our Team To Work For You.

Not only do InfoCentral, WordPerfect Works and ExpressFax+ work as a team, they also complement your favorite products from WordPerfect, Microsoft and Lotus.

And like every other product on Main Street,™ these programs are backed by our unbeatable 90-day money-back guarantee.



InfoCentral's Calendar View keeps you organized with day, week and year views.

And right now, if you buy these or any Main Street product, you'll get a FREE KODAK FunTime 35 camera, while supplies last.

SMILE! It's a free camera.

So get to your favorite software store today or call 1-800-526-2631.

And take a walk down Main Street, for an entire line of productivity programs for your business or home. We'd love to go to work for you.

WordPerfect® Main Street.™

WordPerfect is a registered trademark of Novell, Inc. Main Street, InfoCentral, ExpressFax+ and WordPerfect Works are trademarks of Novell, Inc. Quicken is a registered trademark of Intuit, Inc. All other brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. © Novell, Inc. 1994. ADZMXXXXXIN—8/94

Should a personal computer be the big gift this year?

Is there a gift that can make more of a difference in the lives of your family than a personal computer?

A personal computer can be a business center or an entertainment center. It can help your kids with work from school and you with work from the office. It can keep finances in order and report cards in order.

There's only one catch: you have to learn how to use it first.

Now, with an ordinary PC, this is a fairly serious drawback. But with an Apple® Macintosh® Performa,® it's no trouble at all. Because Performa was designed to be the family computer: easy to set up, easy to learn, easy to use. And now, easier than ever to afford.

It's a gift for kids.

If you have kids in school, the odds are they're already using an Apple computer. Because more schools use Apple than any other brand of computer.

A Macintosh Performa comes with the most popular software already installed. So right out of the box, your kids can start working with the

*Fax/modem not available on Performa models 636 and 636CD. **Support and limited warranty apply to Apple Macintosh Performa CPUs and peripherals only. © 1994 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo, Macintosh, Performa and "The power to be your best" are registered

word processing software to make their homework more polished, and with the graphics software to help them explain their ideas more clearly.

Every Performa can run hundreds of captivating Macintosh education programs that make learning more involving and fun – to help kindergartners learn to read and write, or help high school kids prepare for their SATs.

Choose a Macintosh Performa with a CD-ROM drive, and with a click of a mouse you can instantly access information in encyclopedias and dictionaries, complete with video, animation and sound.

And with its built-in stereo sound and high-quality graphics, a Performa running entertainment software makes ordinary video games look like, well, kid stuff.

It's a gift for parents.

The magic of a personal computer is that you can change what it does simply by changing the software.

You can turn the same computer from a science lab into an artist's palette into a powerful financial management tool.

Every Performa comes with business productivity software already installed: a spreadsheet, word processor, customizable database and more.

It also works with information from a standard business PC as well as from a Macintosh, so you can bring your work home from the office.

Finally, Performa brings the point-and-click simplicity of a Macintosh to a wide range of software for managing your family finances – programs that help you do your taxes, plan your retirement, track investments and balance your checkbook.

It's a gift that comes already assembled.

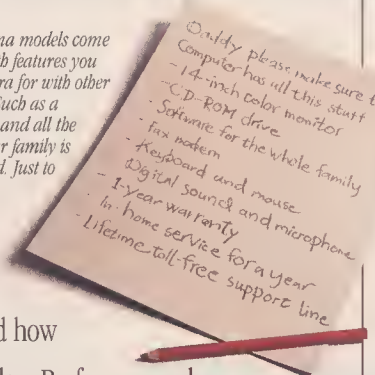
You can set up a Performa in a matter of minutes. Powerful productivity software is already installed. So is a program called At Ease™ that makes it easy for even young children to use a Performa.

Just plug the keyboard and monitor into the computer, and the computer into the wall, and you're ready to go.

There's no system to configure. No AUTOEXEC.BAT or other complex codes that other PCs demand you learn. It's all simple, logical and practical.

It's a gift you can afford.

The price of personal computers has fallen dramatically over the past year. So you'll be surprised how affordable a Performa can be.



Most Performa models come equipped with features you may pay extra for with other computers. Such as a fax/modem and all the software your family is likely to need. Just to name a few.*

And Performa is an even better value when you consider everything that comes with it: all the software your family is likely to need; a fax/modem* that lets you send a fax directly from your desk to a fax machine (or connect, via telephone, to services like America Online and eWorld™); unlimited toll-free telephone support (even with the easiest computer, you may have questions once in a while); plus a year of in-home service** (in the unlikely event you should need it).

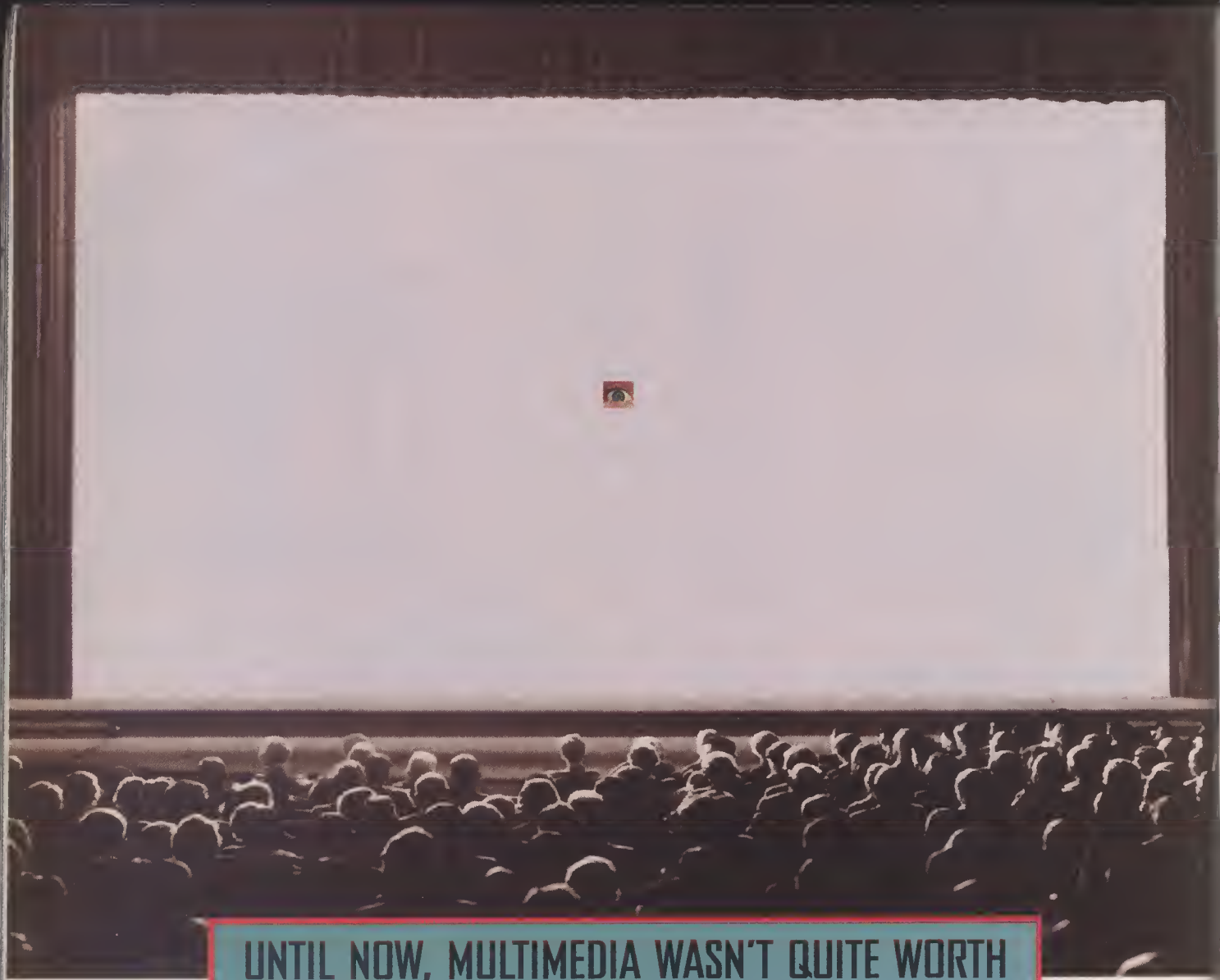
A Macintosh Performa can't simplify the tax code, but it can make doing your income taxes, balancing your checkbook and managing your family finances easier than ever.

The whole idea is to make owning a computer an incredibly satisfying experience. To find out just how easy it actually can be, give us a call at 800-538-9696, ext. 215. We'll give you the name and number of the Macintosh Performa retailer in your area. Then you'll discover the power Performa brings your whole family. The power to be your best.®

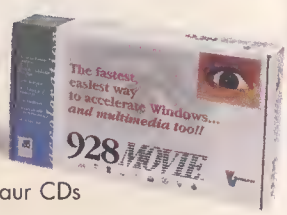
Performa

The Family Macintosh

trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. At Ease and eWorld are trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. Dinosaur illustration in screen is based on artwork from Dinosaurs! The Multimedia Encyclopedia, *©Media Design Interactive 1993. This ad was created using Macintosh personal computers.*



UNTIL NOW, MULTIMEDIA WASN'T QUITE WORTH THE PRICE OF ADMISSION.

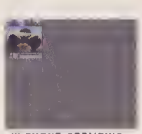


928Movie.
Full motion/full screen video, and Windows accelerator with one affordable board.

AT LAST, PLAY CD TITLES AS THEY WERE MEANT TO BE PLAYED!

It's downright irritating when the video in your new CD title appears on your screen the size of a postage stamp and flickers at you like a flip-book.

Definitely time to 'adjust your set' with **928Movie**™: the only single board that blasts video up to full screen, keeps the picture sharp as a tack, and runs the video like the movie it was intended to be.


WITHOUT 928MOVIE

WITH 928MOVIE

Now at $199

And not only will **928Movie** run your CDs faster, according to PC Computing (7/94), it'll also run any Windows application 33% faster than other acceleratar boards. All with one easily installed board. One solid value. See the amazing **928Movie** demo at Best Buy, CompUSA, Good Guys, Computer City, Lechmere, Egghead Software and Software Etc., or call 1-800-578-5644, ext. 266 to find out more information on how **928Movie** will truly complete your multimedia system.

★★★★★ As Reviewed in MULTIMEDIA WORLD

VideoLogic

TM/® – trademarks belong to their registered owners.

letters

Words on word processors

Your magazine is terrific! Consumer Lab is right on target, with everyday folks reporting in plain language. I particularly enjoyed your September lab on word processors (page 135).

It's refreshing to see a publication aimed at us intermediate users who want to enjoy our equipment and software without getting bogged down in technical details. Between the power users who drive the race cars and the novices still riding bicycles are those of us who've got the station wagons full of kids.

Jim Mullinaux
Columbia, S.C.
via America Online

I am bowled over by your magazine—I find the articles very helpful. In the September Consumer Lab, you have "real" people test software. We need more of that. It was spectacular pairing up "power users" with people who had never touched the products before. It really helps us get a feel for how we will react to the programs.

A couple of suggestions: When you review children's software, could you please list the graphics requirements? And could you specify the violence in children's programs? I am so tired of hearing about a "super graphics" program, only to buy it and find it is so violent that I have to disable it so the kids won't use it.

Maureen Thomas
Pasadena, Calif.
via America Online

When I first heard about *HomePC*, I thought that, at last, I had found a magazine that appeals to the ordinary home user. So I immediately subscribed. After reading the first couple of issues, however, I am disillusioned. Either you have no idea of the needs of the ordinary home user, or I am an extraordinary one.

For example, the seven word processors you reviewed in September were all $495 programs with all the bells and whistles. Many of us can't afford $495 programs, and ordinary users don't need or want all the bells and whistles. I have a great many programs, and not a single one cost me more than $100.

E. Stuart Johnson
Athens, Ala.

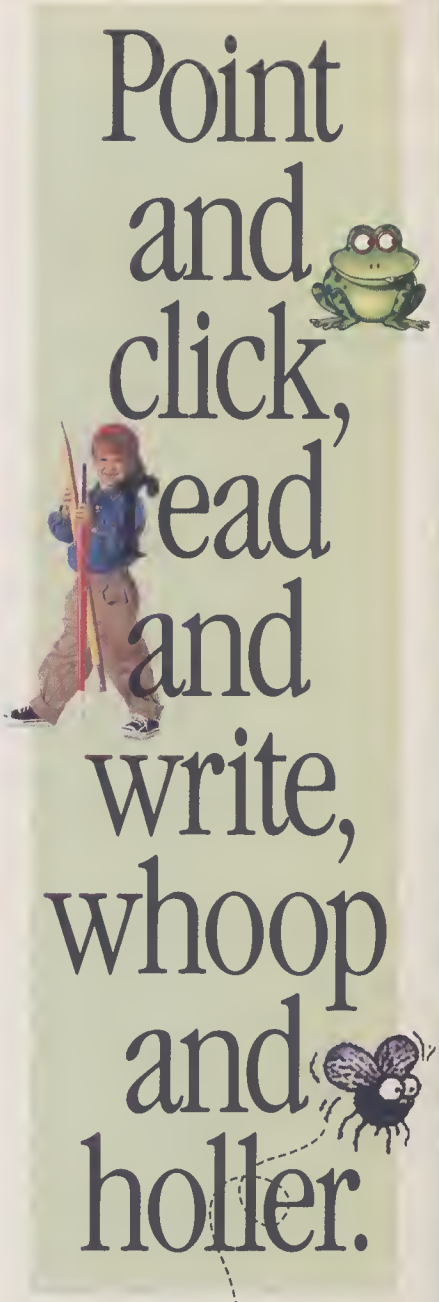
I would like to offer you some advice for testers in your Consumer Lab. When using Windows software, the first step should always be to click on the help menu to see if the program has a tutorial. If it does, go through it before you do anything else. It was obvious from your review of the seven leading word processors that [your testers] had not done that. For example, it was stated that Ami Pro 3.01 for Windows lacks pop-up hints to indicate what the icon buttons do. That is totally untrue; simply right click over any icon.

In general, I wish to commend your magazine for an excellent job. Your non-technical approach to computers is refreshing.

Joseph J. Monforte
Highland Park, Mich.

Advice, no ad vice

As a computer novice and new subscriber to *HomePC*, I enjoyed your October issue, especially Ask Dr. PC (page 27) and "Is Windows a Pain: 20 Simple Answers to Tough Windows Questions" (page 91). These are the kinds of articles I am looking for: easy to read and understand while helping me along with Win-

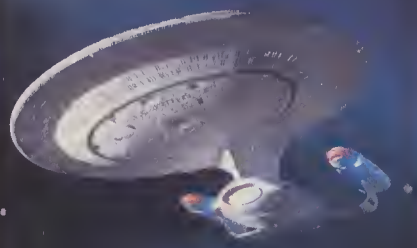


Introducing WiggleWorks,™ from Apple and Scholastic. It's an interactive, multimedia CD-ROM that takes kids through three funny stories. Each story has plenty of reading, writing, drawing and verbal activities for 3- to 8-year-olds. Give us a call at 1-800-635-9550, ext. 100, to find out more. With WiggleWorks, the more fun your kids have, the smarter they get. And that's pretty smart.

Apple Home Learning

© 1994 Apple Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. Apple, the Apple logo and Macintosh are registered trademarks of Apple Computer, Inc. WiggleWorks is a trademark of Scholastic, Inc. This ad was created using Macintosh® personal computers.

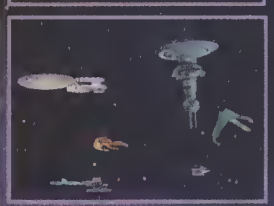
A New Generation Of Screen Savers Is Here!



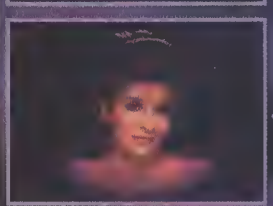
STAR TREK THE NEXT GENERATION®
SCREEN SAVER

Speed through the galaxy at warp speed with Star Trek: The Next Generation Screen Saver. Now you can protect your monitor from phosphor burn-in with Captain Picard™ and the rest of the U.S.S. Enterprise™ crew!

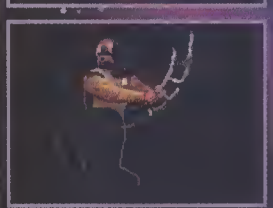
Join the crew on their most famous encounters.



Voyage to a nearby starbase and encounter alien spacecrafts.



Take counsel from Commander Troi.™



Let Lt. Worf™ demonstrate his weapons expertise.

Includes the After Dark 3.0 engine.
Available for Macintosh® and Windows.™

BERKELEY® SYSTEMS

© & © 1994 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved. STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION is a registered trademark of Paramount Pictures. Berkeley Systems Authorized User. Software ©1990-1994 Berkeley Systems, Inc. After Dark and the Berkeley Systems logo are registered trademarks of Berkeley Systems, Inc. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.

To Order Please Call:
1-800-344-5541 ext.157

dows, which can seem like a maze.

Unlike a previous writer who complained about your many advertisements, I am happy to be offered so many new software programs

through the ads. Where else would I find them on a rainy or snowy (ugh!) day when I can't get outside?

Andrew G. Kato
Flint, Mich.

Type upsetting

I really enjoy your magazine, but there's always been one thing that bothered me about it that I could never put my finger on, until the October issue. Do you really need to put so many different kinds of type on one page? Kinda makes it hard to concentrate on the articles at times.

David Klaproth
Phoenix, Ariz.
via America Online

More Apples, please

I have enjoyed your magazine ever since my first issue arrived in July. However, I would like to see you do more articles on Macintosh computing. Although I use a 386 PC at work, the only computer my family and I have access to at home is a Macintosh LC III.

Most of the software available for the PC is also available for the Mac, and there are even products to help one go from the PC to the Mac and vice versa, proving that the Mac is a popular machine. I would like to recommend your magazine to all our friends, but most are Mac users.

Your magazine is the best one I've come across since the PC became a household word. I know it would be even better if you would only cater to Macintosh users.

Chuck Benoit
Somerville, Mass.

Reading and writing in

It was a pleasure to pick up a computer magazine for once without the writers telling me I needed the fastest CPU and 32-MB RAM. I'm a regular guy who just wants to enjoy my computer and help my two teenagers use it for their education. Thanks for seeing a need and filling it so well.

Steve Anderson
Toledo, Ohio
via America Online

You've got a great magazine—I can't wait to see the next issue. This is what I've been looking for since I started using computers in the early '80s. Keep up the good work.

Patricia Olivetto
High Falls, N.Y.
via America Online

Thanks for such a fine magazine. I recently got my first issue and I have to say it is better than I expected. I'm looking forward to seeing many more.

Ronald L. Alexander
Pleasantville, N.Y.

How to contact us:

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to:

Letters to the Editor
HomePC
600 Community Drive
Manhasset, NY 11030

You can also fax your comments to us at (516) 562-7007 or send electronic mail to HomePC *on America Online or* homepc@aol.com *using any other online service.*

Please include your name, address and phone number. All correspondence becomes the property of HomePC *and may be edited for length and content.*

INTRODUCING

MULTIMEDIA STACKER.®

THE POWER TO

LAUNCH MORE GAMES.

You slide into the cockpit, ease the throttle forward, and prepare for a good old-fashioned dogfight. But suddenly, you come to a grinding halt. What's this? Not enough disk space or RAM?

Well, don't surrender those controls quite yet. Because StackerMan is here with new Multimedia Stacker®—the easiest way for you to more than double your hard disk capacity and give your system a big boost in RAM.

Not only is Multimedia Stacker optimized for speed on multimedia systems, but it gives you the maximum disk space you can get.

It also includes a free copy of Multimedia Cloaking,™ a new technology from Helix Software that frees up extra memory by moving system drivers to a 32-bit protected area. So your favorite games have more room to run.

Multimedia Stacker is available on disk or CD-ROM and can be found wherever you see the StackerMan display. So visit your local dealer or call 1-800-522-7822, ext. 9012 for information.

Get Multimedia Stacker today. Because without it, you're grounded, Mister.

Stac
STORAGE & COMMUNICATIONS

"GROUNDED BY RAM AND DISK SPACE PROBLEMS? STACKERMAN READS YOU LOUD AND CLEAR."

Outside of the U.S. call 1-619-794-4333 or fax 1-619-794-4575 for more information.

© 1994, Stac Electronics. Stac and Stacker are registered trademarks of Stac Electronics. Multimedia Cloaking is a trademark of Helix Software. Actual compression results may vary.

Intel Pentium® Processor.
8MB RAM,
540 hard drive.
Double speed CD-ROM,
microphone, speakers,
PhoneBlaster,
SoundBlaster
16-bit sound card.

Phone BLASTER

intel inside
pentium PROCESSOR

PICTURE THIS, AN ORDINARY COMPUTER. Yawn, not much to excite the neurons there. Now go ahead and make a 180° turn on the fun scale.

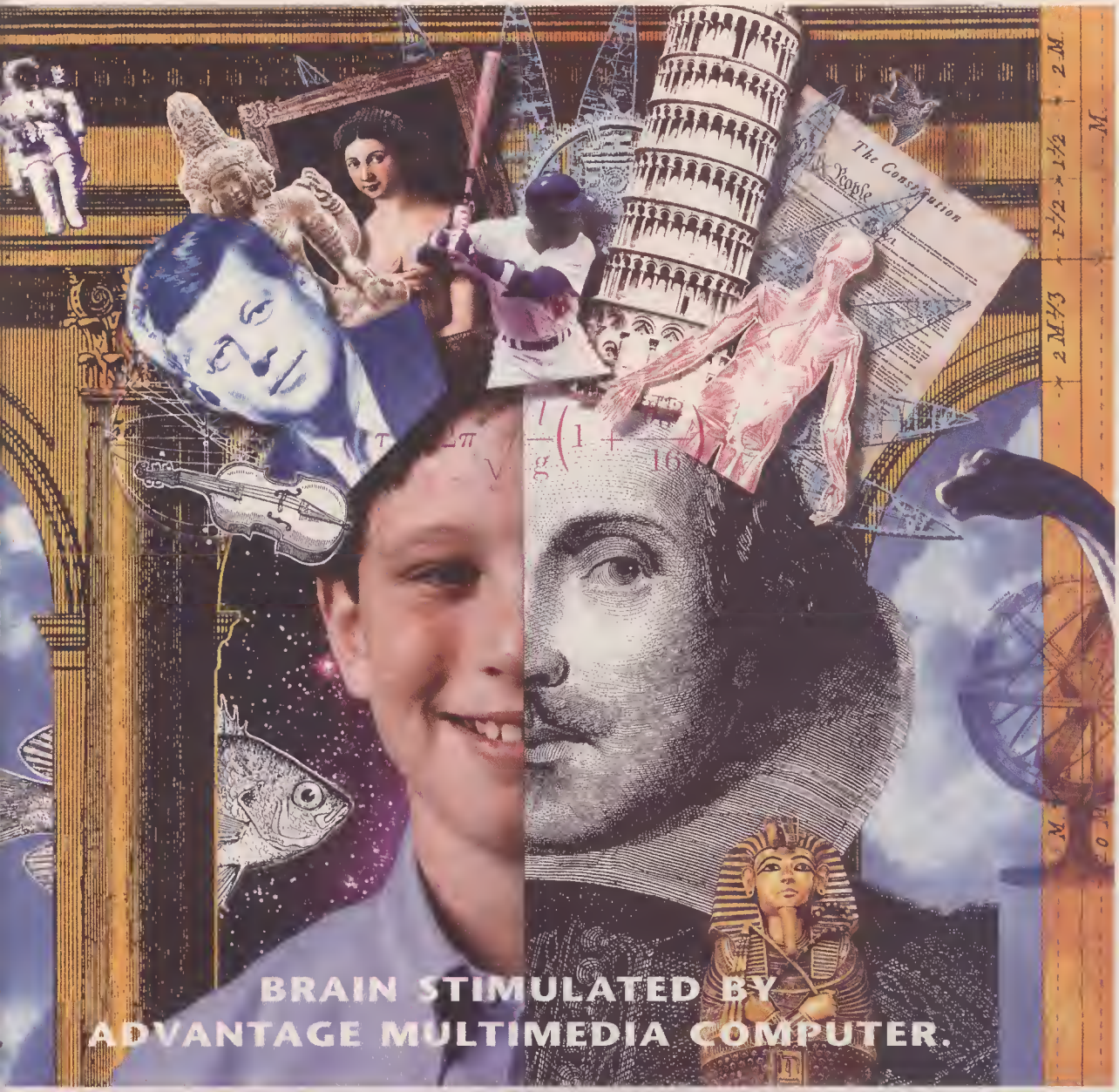
You're seated in the space shuttle. Far below, mountains, continents and oceans spin by. One click of the mouse and in the astronaut's own voice, history repeats, "...one giant step for mankind."

With an AST Advantage!,™ you don't just access the information. You listen to it, relive it, open your eyes and let your imagination run away with it.

You can run all the latest software. We've conveniently loaded programs like Microsoft Windows, Encarta and Works-Multimedia edition, Prodigy and America Online.

There's something for everyone, left and right brain types alike. Plan a ski trip for the weekend, look up the most recent sport standings, make a birthday card for Aunt Ellen, explore the world dinosaurs lived in or crank the tunes

©1994 AST Research, Inc. All rights reserved. AST, Advantage! are registered trademarks of AST Research, Inc. AST Computer, the AST logo and "You'll Like the Way Intel and the Intel Inside logo are registered trademarks and Pentium and Pentium Processor logo are trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other product or service names



from your favorite hip-hop compact disc.

Here's a couple of other things you won't find on any ordinary computer. For one, our very own AST Works.™

It makes everything easier, from start-up to getting help from a real live person right on the screen. Now isn't that just the sort of innovative thinking you would expect from one of the world's largest PC manufacturers?

We've even built in Creative Labs' PhoneBlaster.™ It's a combination fax/modem and answering machine with voice mail, that's as easy to use as the phone.

Call 1-800-876-4AST for the details. Then turn on the Advantage! And open your mind.

YOU'LL LIKE THE WAY WE WORK™

AST® COMPUTER

We Work™ are trademarks of AST Research, Inc. Creative Labs and SoundBlaster are registered trademarks and PhoneBlaster is a trademark of Creative Technology, Ltd. mentioned herein may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners. Configurations and specifications may vary and are subject to change without notice.

EXPLORE the INTERNET!

FREE

Delphi Internet™ offers you full access to the Internet and now you can explore this incredible resource with no risk. You get 5 hours of evening and weekend access to try it out for free!*

now supporting 9,600 and 14,400 bps at no extra charge! **

Use Delphi Internet's mail gateway to exchange messages with over 30 million people at universities, companies, and other online services such as CompuServe® and MCI Mail®. Download programs and files from all over the world using **FTP** or connect in real-time to other networks using **Telnet.** You can also meet people on the Internet. **Internet Relay Chat** lets you "talk" with people all over the world and **Usenet News** is the world's largest bulletin board with over 20,000 topics!

To help you find the information you want, you'll have direct access to powerful search utilities such as **Gopher**, **Hytelnet** and **WAIS**. If you aren't familiar with these terms, don't worry; Delphi Internet has expert online assistants and a large collection of help files, books, programs, and other resources to help get you started.

Over 850 local access numbers are available across the country. Explore Delphi Internet today. You'll be amazed by what you discover.

FIVE HOUR FREE TRIAL! *

Dial By Modem 1-800-365-4636, Press return until you get a prompt
At Username, enter JOINDELPHI. At Password, Enter HPCD94

*Free offer applies to new members only; limit one per household; and is valid for a limited time. A valid credit card is required for immediate access. Free time may be used only during the remainder of the calendar month of becoming a member. Telcom surcharges apply during business hours (6 am to 6 pm weekdays) via Tymnet or SprintNet and for access outside the mainland U.S. New members must agree to Terms and Conditions of membership when joining. Complete details and other restrictions are provided during the toll-free registration. DELPHI INTERNET is a trademark of Delphi Internet Services Corporation.

Attention Current Internet Users: See what DELPHI can offer you! Stock quotes, Grolier's Encyclopedia, newswires, and hundreds of other services are just a few keystrokes away. Telnet to delphi.com and enter the username and password above for a free trial.

DELPHI INTERNET™

Questions? Call 1-800-695-4005.
Send e-mail to INFO@delphi.com

**9,600 bps available in most local areas via Tymnet and Sprintnet. 14,400 bps available by dialing direct to Cambridge, MA.

1994 © Delphi Internet Services Corporation

ask dr. pc

EDITED BY SEAN FULTON

Can I pull blinds over Windows?

Q **My computer launches Windows automatically every time I start up, but more often than not I exit Windows right away and go to work in DOS. How can I set up my computer so that I save time and simply start in DOS?**

A When your computer starts up, or boots, it reads a file called *autoexec.bat*, which identifies commands or programs the computer should run right away. Some PC manufacturers that install Windows assume that home computer owners will use it more often than they use DOS, so they put the *win* command, the command that starts Windows, into the *autoexec.bat* file. That's why your computer launches Windows automatically.

You can tell your computer to ignore commands or programs listed in the *autoexec.bat* file by labeling them as "remarks." Remarks remain in the *autoexec.bat* file for reference, but your computer will not run them. To label a command as a remark, use your DOS editor (type *edit* at the DOS prompt) to open C:*autoexec.bat*. In *autoexec.bat*, type *rem* followed by a space at the beginning of the line that you'd like your computer to ignore. In your case, typing *rem* at the beginning of the *win* line will keep the PC from launching Windows.

Thereafter, you'll be at the DOS command line as soon as the computer has read your *autoexec.bat* file. Whenever you want to launch Windows, just type *win* at the DOS command prompt.

What puts these mice on ice?

Q **My PC's serial mouse works with my Windows applications, but it freezes when I connect to Prodigy. What's going on?**

A Your problem is a common one. Add-on devices such as mice, modems and printers "talk" to the computer's "brain," or processor, by sending information up and down what's called the "bus." Think of the bus as the street where you live. The postman delivers the mail by matching the addresses on the envelopes to the addresses marked on the houses. If two houses had the same address, the postman would get confused.

This is similar to what's happening inside your computer. I suspect that your mouse and your modem, which connects you to Prodigy, are attempting to use the same "address," and your computer doesn't know which device to deliver its messages to. This situation can arise if you plug a mouse into a serial port at the back of your computer, install a modem inside your computer and then assign the modem the same address as the serial port your mouse uses.

First, check the back of your computer to see if your mouse is connected to the serial port labeled COM1 or COM2. Then check to see if that's the port your modem is set up to use (the owner's manual for your modem will tell you which port the modem is set to use, but you can set it to use any available COM port). Your problem suggests that your modem is currently set to use the same COM port as your mouse, so you'll need to revise the setting for your modem. Check the modem's manual for instructions on how to change it.

Illustrations by Chip Wass

When all else fails,

Starting at $119

There are three types of computer users: those who have lost data due to a power problem, those who are going to, and those who have protected themselves against the inevitable surge, blackout or brownout with the most reliable UPS they can buy: Back-UPS by APC. In fact, editors and users alike agree that if your system demands absolute reliability, you can depend on APC Back-UPS.

According to a study by Bell Labs, undervoltages represent the overwhelming majority of power problems likely to hit your computer. The question is not if a failure will occur, but when. Whether due to construction, wiring, weather, other office equipment, or accidents, power problems are as inevitable as death and taxes. That's why you need instantaneous battery backup power from the Back-UPS to prevent data loss, hard disk crashes, and hardware damage.

If you're concerned about lightning, rest assured that when measured using the ANSI/IEEE 587 Category A test wave, Back-UPS are superior to virtually all separate surge suppressors. Surge performance is even backed by a $25,000 Lifetime Equipment Protection Guarantee.

APC Voted most reliable by 3-to-1
Tripp
Best

PC MAGAZINE

In a recent poll by PC Magazine's MagNet, APC was voted the most reliable UPS manufacturer by a 3-to-1 margin. That's dependability that will see you though years of unmatched power protection.

PC MAGAZINE UK EDITORS' CHOICE

"The clear winner in price performance...it's unbeatable..."

August 1993
APC Back UPS 1250

© 1994, APC. Back--UPS, PowerChute are trademarks of APC. Other trademarks are the property of their owners. Specs subject to change without notice.

Back-UPS® prevail

Attention Resellers, Win $10,000 cash in APC's Back-UPS Workstation Success Story Promo!! Call for an entry form today!

"All other brands of UPS die regularly in this lightning prone environment. My APC won't die!" said Paul Sisilli, Systems Analyst, City of Port St. Lucie. "With other brands, users don't find out until it is too late. The power interruptions here are very hard to live with. The other brands are dying off. Typically they last just beyond their warranty period. My Back-UPS is going on three years...no other brand is as reliable."

Don Truax knows first hand about Back-UPS reliability: "It ought to be against the law to buy a computer without an APC Back-UPS 250. I recently had a direct lightning hit right outside the house...my computer never blinked. Each morning I get a surge down the line and both APC's hate it - they simultaneously 'holler 'n clamp' while my 'Brand T' quietly sleeps in. I've relegated that unit to non-critical household stuff like my VCR."

Andrew Wargo, Manager at Baxter Land Company, tried two other brands before Back-UPS. "One lasted a few days, a second one went up in smoke after 48 hours, a third lasted less than 24 hours! I then bought my Back-UPS for less than half of what I had paid for the others. We've purchased three more Back-UPS and for the past 14 months they've been just hummin' away on the same power line that was eating the other brands alive!"

If you're protecting a network server, a communications interface port (on models Back-UPS 400 and higher) provides the security of an automatic shutdown to all major OS including NetWare, Windows, Windows NT, LAN Server, LAN Manager, LANtastic, SCO Unix, OS/2, Banyan Vines, AppleShare/System7 and more, so your data is safe whether the system is attended or not. (PowerChute software and interface kits sold separately.)

And since data processed on networked clients needs protection too, the $139 Back-UPS 280 provides an economical solution for all your LAN workstations. And if you have a new green PC, the price is even better at $119 for the new Back-UPS 200.

MADE IN

Discovering how essential Back-UPS protection is can be hard...if you wait for the next storm to roll through. But discovering how affordable it has become is easy...

Call today and find out (the easy way) why more than 2,000,000 satisfied users bank on Back-UPS from APC. With more awards than all other brands combined, field-proven reliability, and a two year warranty, Back-UPS are power protection you can purchase with confidence.

Back-UPS (L to R)	Application	Sugg. List
200	Green PCs, small desktop systems	$119
280	Desktop systems, LAN nodes, POS	$139
400	Desktop 486, 386 systems, servers	$229
450	Tower 486, 386 systems, servers	$279
600	Heavily configured systems, CAD/CAM workstations	$399
900	Multiple systems, longer runtime applications	$599
1250	Multiple systems, LAN hubs, small minis, telecom equipment	$799

More than... 2,000,000 Satisfied Users

APC has won more awards for performance and reliability than all other UPS vendors combined...including five consecutive LAN Times *Readers Choice awards...*

PC World Top 20 Upgrade

Windows Mag. Readers Choice

LAN TIMES READERS CHOICE 1994

Reseller News Editors Choice

AWARD-WINNING FEATURES

Instantaneous backup power beats blackouts and brownouts

Unmatched lightning (tested to UL1449) and surge protection for maximum hardware safety

Network-grade line conditioning and EMI/RFI filters prevent glitches

LAN Interface (on Back-UPS 400 and up) provides automatic shutdown to all major OS: Windows, NT, NetWare, LAN Server, LAN Manager, LANtastic, Unix, OS/2, Vines, AppleShare/System7 and more.

Site diagnostics automatically spot missing ground and reversed polarity, two common miswirings which usually require an electrician's visit to diagnose.

Option switches allow you to customize transfer voltage and alarm settings.

Test Switch for ongoing peace of mind.

2 year warranty and full safety approvals including ISO9001.

$25,000 Lifetime Equipment Protection

Hot Swappable, User Replaceable Batteries reduce service time, costs by allowing safe removal and replacement of exhausted batteries, while your system stays running.

Microsoft Windows Compatible

NetWare Tested and Approved

ARTISOFT COMPATIBLE LANtastic

SCO OK

Available and Ready for LAN Server

Solaris Compatible

PowerFax Info (800)347-FAXX Get specs faxed directly to your desk!

APC™

AMERICAN POWER CONVERSION

800-800-4APC

APC EUROPE (+33) 64625900 / ASIA/PACIFIC FAX: (+813) 5295-1989
L. AMERICA FAX: 401 788-2716 / Compuserve: GO APCSUPPORT
Internet: tech@apctech.UUCP or uunet!apctech!techs

Dept. 01

Who monitors PCs' radiation?

Q I keep hearing conflicting reports about the hazards of radiation emitted from personal computers. Is working at a PC dangerous? Can you recommend any literature on the subject?

A Current research suggests that a lifetime playing Doom will expose you to less radiation than you'd receive from a single X-ray.

PC monitors generate an electromagnetic field (EMF), which is a magnetic field created by electrical current. So do most electrical appliances in your house—including microwave ovens, electric blankets, blow-dryers and fluorescent lights. But research into a link between prolonged exposure to EMFs

and physical harm remains inconclusive after numerous studies. The inquiries are ongoing, and it could be years before they produce meaningful results.

Some European countries have decided it's better to be safe than sorry and instituted strict requirements for acceptable levels of EMF. The United States has a more lenient standard, but most PC monitors designed in the last year or so adhere to the European requirements. You can reduce your exposure to EMFs by sitting an arm's length from the screen. (If you can't read your monitor from this distance and you're concerned about EMFs, you may want to buy a monitor with a larger screen.)

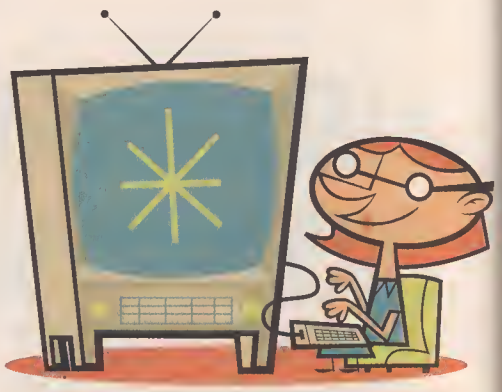
To learn more about possible effects of EMFs, check out the May 1994 issue of *Consumer Reports*; it contains a good article on the subject. Or, take a look at "Sitting Pretty" in the August 1994 issue of *HomePC*.

My favorite program, on TV!

Q My vision is slightly impaired and I need a large screen. A 17-inch monitor for my computer costs $800 to $1,200, but a TV with an even larger screen sells for around $300. Can I hook my PC to a television and use the TV as a monitor?

A Yes, you can. All you need is a VGA-to-NTSC converter, which sells for $150 to $350. The converter translates the image destined for your monitor into a signal that can be displayed by your television.

The converters are sold either as cards, which are installed inside your computer, or as external boxes, which connect by cable to



the computer and the TV. I recommend the external boxes, which cost a little more but are easier to hook up.

Connect the wire that resembles your PC monitor cable from the "VGA In" port on the external VGA-to-NTSC converter to the monitor port on the back of your computer. Then, plug the cable from your PC monitor into the port marked "VGA Out" on the converter. At this point, if you plug the converter box into a wall outlet, your computer will work as usual, with the image displayed on your monitor screen.

Now for the fun. The converter box will likely have two additional connectors: one marked "S-VHS," the other a standard RCA connector marked "composite video," or "video." S-VHS is a high-quality video connection that links the converter to a VCR, video camera or professional-calibre video mixer. But it requires a special S-VHS cable, and unless your VCR supports this type of connection (check the owner's manual), you won't be able to use it.

The connector marked "composite video" is the one you'll probably end up using. On the back of your TV or VCR, look for the RCA connector marked "Video In." You may find one or two pairs of RCA connectors marked "Video In" and "Audio In" and "Video Out" and "Audio Out." Like the S-VHS connector mentioned above, these are used to connect your VCR or TV to other electronic devices, including stereo systems, video cameras, other VCRs and, in this case, your home

Don't Just Fill The Computer Screen...

FILL THE ROOM

ADVENT®

POWERED PARTNERS®

Multimedia Speakers

Get the most out of computer multimedia sound. Upgrade to Advent® Powered Partners® and hear what you've been missing!

Experience the ultimate in room-shattering arcade sounds and special effects. Enhance your children's appreciation of computer learning programs. Enjoy your favorite music CD's, too.

Advent multimedia speakers are fully compatible with all Mac and PC sound boards. They're famous for unrivaled sound reproduction and striking good looks. And our AV570 model (featured) is a continual winner of editor's choice and reader's choice awards.

Just a few sound reasons why you should ask for Advent Powered Partners. Discover a room full of others when you visit your authorized Advent retailer.

For the one nearest you, call 1-800-477-3257.

ADVENT®

Sound as it was meant to be heard

©1994 Advent and Powered Partners are registered trademarks of International Jensen Inc.

computer. Simply run a wire (one is usually packaged with the converter box) between the "Video In" connector on your TV or VCR and the RCA jack on the converter box, and you'll be in business.

Check the manual that came with your television or VCR to find out more about how to use and view video from the Video In port; some sets require you to select certain channels or channel combinations to view whatever is coming in through the RCA connector.

Fonts? I'm at a loss for Word's

Q **My Windows Control Panel lists lots of fonts, but when I check the fonts in my Microsoft Word pull-down menu, it says I have none. Can I transfer the fonts in the Control Panel to Word and my other applications?**

A The fonts listed in your Control Panel are installed on your hard drive and come with Windows. Some of these are "screen" fonts, which Windows uses only for characters you see on screen, and some are "True Type" fonts, which can be used either to display characters on screen or by a printer driver (the program that runs your printer) to print the characters in a document.

Printer drivers contain a list of fonts that the printer can accept, and these are the fonts that are listed in your Microsoft Word application. If any other fonts on your computer are accepted by your printer, those will be listed as well.

If Word shows no fonts, chances are you haven't installed a printer and your computer is set up for a "Generic/Text Only" printer, which prints only plain text, so Windows lists only one or two usable character fonts.

If you don't have a printer connected to your computer, select the Printers section in the Control Panel and remove the Generic/Text Only printer from your computer's setup. Windows will then default to the font list you saw in the Control Panel and those fonts will show up in all your applications.

If you do have a printer hooked up, try installing drivers expressly designed for that printer model. Such drivers typically come with the printer; contact the manufacturer if they didn't. These drivers may also come with Windows.

This is an Sos! I mean SOS!!

Q **Microsoft Word 6.0 won't let me type acronyms. I'm a bank manager and whenever I type CD, for certificate of deposit, Word automatically changes it to Cd! Help!**

A Word 6.0's AutoCorrect feature fixes many common typing mistakes as they occur—turning "teh" into "the," for example. When typing, people often linger on the shift key, resulting in two capital letters at the beginning of a word; AutoCorrect assumes this is a mistake and makes the second of two consecutive capital letters lowercase. This default setup is causing your problem.

You have two choices: Either tell AutoCorrect never to change two initial capital letters, or add "CD," and any other acronyms you use frequently, to your spelling dictionary.

To take the first approach, which is a bit like killing a bug with a shotgun, select AutoCorrect in Word's Tools pull-down menu, then click on the box next to the phrase "Correct TWo INitial CAps." Click the button marked "OK" and AutoCorrect will leave your acronyms alone.

To take the second approach, select AutoCorrect, but this time, go to the middle of the AutoCorrect window. In the box beneath the word "Replace," type in "CD." In the adjacent box, the one beneath the word "With," type "CD." Then click the "ADD" button and "OK." AutoCorrect will still fix two consecutive capital letters, but it will know that the acronym CD is Ok... I mean OK.

The Best...

"Interactive fiction doesn't get any better than this."
NewMedia

"A challenging, take-no-prisoners game."
Computer Gaming World

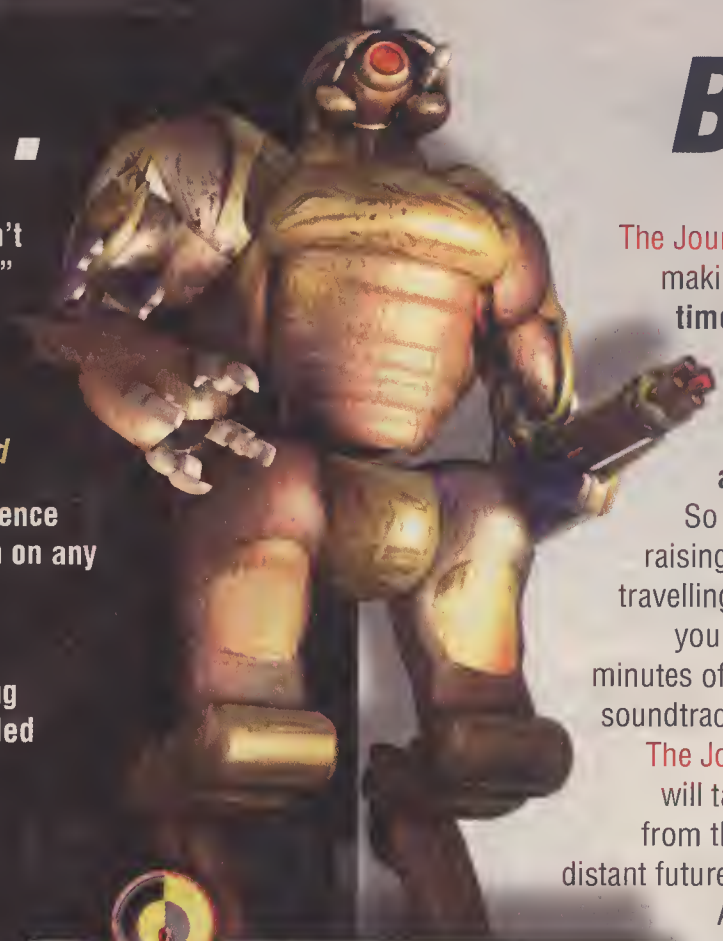
"The most innovative science fiction game we've seen on any system."
Dragon Magazine

"It rivals the most exciting movie or the most detailed strategy game."
Axcess

Invision –
Award of Excellence and Gold Medal, Best Animation and Graphics

Mac Computing –
Editor's Choice Award

SVM Mac –
Best Entertainment Title of the Year



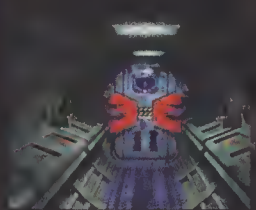
Gets Better!

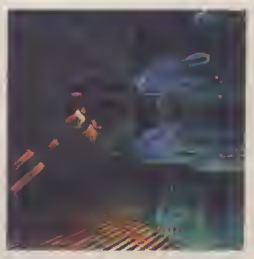
The Journeyman Project *Turbo* is making history! **Now the epic time travel adventure game is more than 300% faster than the original, and requires as little as 4 MB of RAM!** So the heart-thumping, hair-raising, sweaty-palms speed of travelling through time won't age you a bit. With more than 30 minutes of digital video, an original soundtrack, and a non-linear story, The Journeyman Project *Turbo* will take you on a chilling ride from the prehistoric past to the distant future, faster than ever before! Also included on the disk is a sneak preview of the sequel "Buried in Time" and "The Journey," a digital movie about the making of The Journeyman Project *Turbo*.

THE JOURNEYMAN PROJECT *Turbo!*

Available on CD-ROM for MPC and Macintosh.
For upgrade info or the name of a dealer near you call:

800-943-3664





©1994 Presto Studios Inc. All rights reserved.
The Journeyman Project is a trademark of Presto Studios Inc.

PRESTO STUDIOS

©1994 Sanctuary Woods Multimedia, Inc. All rights reserved. I-entertainment is a trademark and Sanctuary Woods is a registered trademark of Sanctuary Woods Multimedia Corporation.

Return to vendor? Address unknown

Q I found a shareware game from 1988 that I like a lot. I intend to send a check to the author, but first I want to know if the address on the program is still valid. How can I check?

A First of all, it's great that you're asking. The theory behind shareware is that you get to try a program out before you buy it. If you like the software, then you're expected to send in your check. Unfortunately, a lot of folks just copy shareware programs and enjoy them while the authors who wrote the software get stiffed.

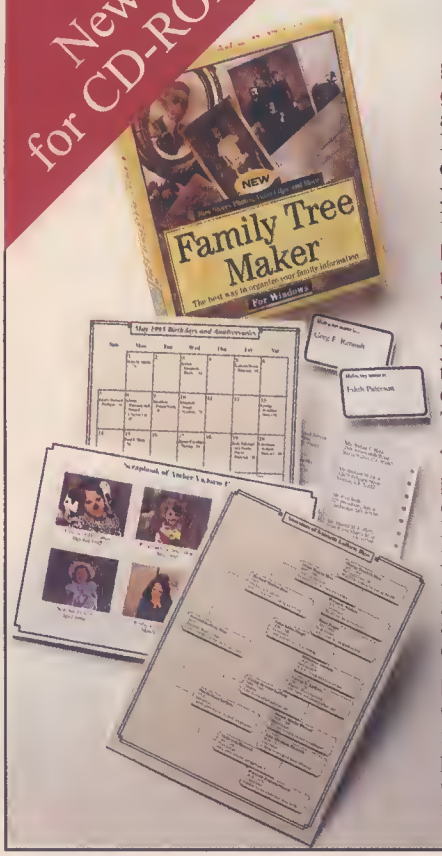
Many shareware authors belong to the Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP). You can obtain the current address of any ASP member by contacting Jan Abbott, Executive Director of the Association of Shareware Professionals, 545 Grover Road, Muskegon, Mich. 49442-9427, (616) 788-5131. You can also contact Jan at the e-mail address *72050.1433@compuserve.com.*

If the author is not a member of the ASP, try sending a letter to the address given in the program (don't send payment until you get a satisfactory response). If this doesn't work, check an on-line bulletin board system or service for a more recent copy of the program, which may contain a current address. •

Dr. PC was assisted this month by Andy Feibus, Michele K. Hugelmeyer and Chris Oggerino.

Do you have a question for Dr. PC? You can mail it to Ask Dr. PC, HomePC, *600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030, phone it in to (800) DOC-IS-IN, fax it to (516) 562-7007 or post it to the doctor at* HomePC *on America Online.*

New for CD-ROM



Family Tree Maker™ Deluxe

Now Stores Photos, Video Clips, and More!

Preserve stories and traditions for future generations. Simply enter information about parents, children, and marriages. Family Tree Maker for Windows makes it easy to organize all the scattered facts about your family. Record names, dates, medical facts, hobbies, even family stories.

Easily include photos – No scanner required! Family Tree Maker is also a great way to get all your cherished family photos organized. Ask your photo developer to put your next roll of film or even your old photos onto a Kodak Photo CD™. Slip the Photo CD into your PC to put pictures into Family Tree Maker.

The Scrapbook feature stores hundreds of photos per person. Enter captions and descriptions for easy searching and sorting. Print photos in family trees or in album pages. There's even an on-screen slide show. Advanced features also allow users to import graphic files (BMPs, TIFs, etc.) and embed and play OLE objects, such as home video clips.

Dozens of heirloom-quality printouts. Once you have entered some names, choose from a variety of family tree styles and other printouts including birthday and anniversary calendars, mailing lables, name tags, medical history, and more.

The FamilyFinder™ makes it easier and faster to find your ancestors. With the FamilyFinder feature, you'll speed up your family search by weeks without ever leaving your desk! The FamilyFinder is an amazing list of 100 million deceased people whose names appear in state and federal genealogical records. While it doesn't contain the records themselves, it does tell you **exactly** where to find information about each person.

The Genealogy "How-To" Guide gives you even more help in finding your ancestors. This on-line guide tells you how to begin, and who to contact. Plus, it lists the addresses of all state and county record offices. There's even help for doing research abroad.

Floppy version available, too – includes all features except the FamilyFinder and the "How-To" Guide.

Risk Free – Order Today! 30-day money-back guarantee – no questions asked. Sold at software stores nationwide or call us direct!

Call: 800-291-9380

$54.99 (Floppy) **$69.99** (CD-ROM)

Store prices may differ. Add $6.00 shipping and sales tax (for NY, MA, and CA residents.)

Banner Blue SOFTWARE

© Copyright 1994 Banner Blue Software. All rights reserved. All products are trademarks of their respective holders.

Babysitter in a box.

Creativity in a box.

INTRODUCING NEW CRAYOLA SOFTWARE FROM MICROGRAFX.

New! Available Now

Is your child looking for something creative to do? Because now, the company famous for kids' creativity is also famous for interactive software. With Crayola Amazing Art Adventure™ (for ages 3-6) and Crayola Art Studio™ (for ages 6-12), a whole new world of creative activities, games and crafts is open to your child. And the possibilities are limited only by the imagination. With Crayola™ software, your child can be having fun creating with brushes, markers and crayons, or playing with games, puzzles, and funny characters filled with wacky sounds and colorful surprises — all on the computer. Crayola software even has animated stickers, so kids can make their own cartoons. You'll also feel good in knowing that your child is playing with Crayola, the same trusted name you grew up with. Call **800-2-CREATE** today. And introduce your child to a whole new world of creativity and fun.

MicroGrafx™
THE FUTURE OF CREATIVITY

Micrografx, Inc. 1303 Arapaho, Richardson, TX 75081. (214) 234-1769. Copyright © 1994, Micrografx, Inc. All rights reserved. Micrografx is a registered trademark of Micrografx, Inc. Crayola, Chevron design, Serpentine, Amazing Art Adventure and Art Studio are trademarks of Binney & Smith Properties, Inc.

WHEN YOU BUY A COMPUTER, DON'T MAKE YOUR CHILDREN PAY FOR THE MONITOR.

When you choose the ideal system for your home, don't overlook the most obvious component: The monitor. Computer companies will frequently include a low-quality monitor, which makes a complete system easier to buy. But a lot harder to live with.

Nokia is Finland's largest multinational company, and the leading brand of monitors in Europe.

If you chose your monitor as carefully as the rest of your system, it would probably look like the Nokia 17" 447L multimedia monitor. With a .28 mm dot pitch flat square tube and maximum resolution of 1024 x 768 at a refresh rate of 75 Hz, the 447L is the caliber of display usually enjoyed by graphics professionals. In fact, Nokias have been named a

*When used together with an appropriate graphics card. 17" CRT yields a diagonal picture size of 15.75". Manufactured and designed in Finland in an ISO 9001 approved environment.
©1994, Nokia Display Products, Inc. EuroPalette, Valuegraph, and FullScreen are trademarks of Nokia Display Products, Inc. E-MAIL: bynokia@aol.com.

PC Magazine Editors' Choice and an Experts' Pick in *Windows Sources*. So the 447L is particularly suitable for the graphics-rich programs families tend to run. The 447L also features front panel solid-state screen adjustments and stereo powered speakers under the bezel—ideal for multimedia software. Which brings us to the most important consideration.

Children now spend long hours with their young eyes just inches away from monitor screens. Here the 447L shows its real value. Its emissions control has earned Sweden's MPRII certification—one of the strictest standards in the world. Its ergonomics reduce eyestrain and fatigue, and demonstrate real user-sensitivity.*

The environmental values of Finland (where the 447L is made) show throughout the system: From no CFCs or formaldahyde in the materials (which eliminates harmful gases) right down to using recycled paper in the packaging.

Nokia makes speakers for German luxury cars, so adding them to the 447L was easy.

Not only is the 447L friendlier to users, it won't clash with the furniture either—thanks to the EuroPalette™ choice of colors. And with its suggested retail price of $699**, it won't even disturb the family budget.

So look into the 447L. After all: It's a decison your family will be looking into for years to come. Call 1.800.BY NOKIA for the location of the dealer nearest you.

MAXIMUM REFRESH RATE FOR EACH RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION	640x480	800x600	1024x768
447L—17"	80Hz	80Hz	75Hz

NOKIA

CONNECTING PEOPLE

Now available at CompUSA

**Dealer price may vary. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice. Actual colors may vary. The Energy Star emblem does not represent EPA endorsement of any product or service. All other trademarks are the sole property of their respective companies.

Energy Star
EPA POLLUTION PREVENTER

----->Your daughter created a playbook for the high school

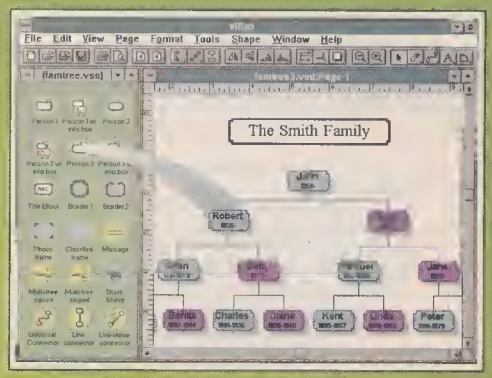
And

Even if you don't have an artistic bone in your body, you'll be drawing all kinds of neat stuff in no time. The kind of stuff you would only be able to create by spending a small fortune on several different drawing programs. And get this, with Visio Home *you won't actually be drawing a thing.*

Introducing Visio® Home. It's the essential, all-in-one drawing tool for your home PC. With it you can create just about anything you can think of. Even the stuff your dog might dream up. How is this possible, you ask? Visio Home is jam-packed with 30 stencils and over 900 pre-drawn SmartShapes.® All you have to do is drag and drop shapes from stencil to page and you're done. It's fun. It's easy. [And isn't life a little better when things are fun and easy?] Normally you'd need stacks of drawing programs to do everything Visio Home does. But for just a few bucks and a few minutes of your time, you'll be creating maps, science projects, floor plans, calendars—you name it. So there really is something for everyone in the family. If you're not

All trademarks referenced herein are held by Shapeware Corp. except for Windows which is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. ©1994 Shapeware Corporation. All rights reserved.

family tree. Your son drew a football team. the dog added a sleeping loft to his place. *Okay, you helped the dog.*



So you can't draw your way out of a paper bag. No problem. Using Visio Home is cake. Choose a shape from the stencil. Drag it and drop it on your drawing page. Type to add text. And you're done. In technical terms: Drag. Drop. Done. And if you ever need any help just click on the right mouse button. Pretty nifty stuff, huh?

completely, totally, unequivocally satisfied, there's a 60-day money-back guarantee. You and Visio Home. The possibilities are endless.

Here's the deal. Normally, Visio Home sells for $79*. *Now it's only* $49! To order or get the name of the nearest reseller, call (800) 457-3335, ext. X24. Do it now.

Directional Maps
Home Design
Family Tree
Science Projects
Garden Design
Greeting Cards
Coloring Books
U.S. & World Geography
Football Play Diagrams
Calendars
and lots more

Household drawing for everyone in the house.™

*Suggested retail price.

hot stuff!

COOL PRODUCTS AND THE LATEST TRENDS

BY THE EDITORS OF HOMEPC

Software? Hardware? *Eyewear!*

Race-car drivers have their Ray-Bans, Hollywood has its Wayfarers and computer users have... black horn-rims? Not very hip. So give The Leonardo Company some style points for "Anchiano," a new line of tinted glasses designed to be worn at the computer. The glasses eliminate glare without reducing the intensity or clarity of what you see on the screen.

Unlike the sunglasses some people resort to when work at the computer makes their eyes burn, Anchiano glasses don't darken your overall view. But the partially polarized lenses, which have an adjustable light blue filter, are designed to provide UV protection and prevent eyestrain. The shades are available in full frames ($34.95) or clip-on lenses ($24.95). Anchiano lenses for prescription glasses are scheduled to be available by spring. —*Jennifer Trirerio*

The Leonardo Company, (800) 755-2726, (313) 662-4620.

24-hour modems (no *strings* attached)

Forget the message in a bottle; if you're ever stranded (with your laptop), Sierra Wireless's new compact wireless modem, the PocketPlus, can help you stay in touch—all day, every day.

Illustration by Christoph Hitz

Sierra's PocketPlus uses new technology known as CDPD, or Cellular Digital Packet Data, to communicate with your cellular telephone carrier. The benefit of CDPD is that your carrier bills you only for the amount of data you transfer. For most other cellular modems, carriers bill you by connect time, whether data is being transferred or not. With CDPD, you can leave your modem on all day to receive faxes and e-mail, and you'll pay only for the data you receive.

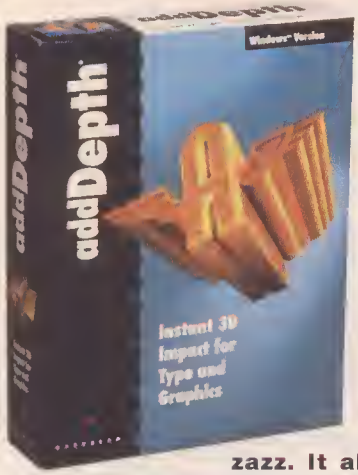
The PocketPlus comes with software that supports both Windows and Macintosh setups, and it's as easy to install as any conventional external modem. It also has a rechargeable battery pack and an AC adapter, so you can plug the device into a wall telephone socket and avoid cellular charges altogether. But while the PocketPlus weighs in at less than a pound, there's nothing light about its price: $1,195. ***—Michele K. Hugelmeyer***

Sierra Wireless, (604) 231-1100.

An A1 *source for* 3-D *effects*

Do your print projects seem a little flat? Maybe it's time to step up to the next dimension with addDepth for Windows ($149), which quickly and easily adds 3-D graphics and type to newsletters, logos and letterheads.

The program's addDepth Wizard walks you step-by-step through the design process, displaying effects such as color,



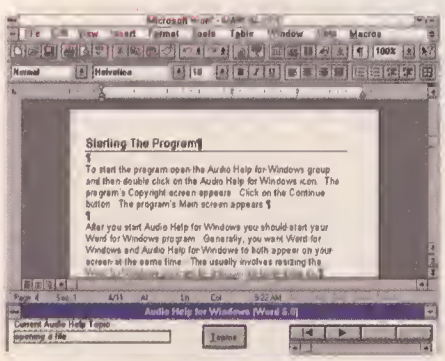
shading, depth and angle rotation for illustrations and text. The software includes more than 30 graphics templates, including a banner, a skyline and a shield, that will give your announcements pizzazz. It also accepts clip art and illustrations from all leading Windows graphics applications. Enter your text or illustration, pick a design and effect, and within seconds, addDepth lives up to its name. *—J.T.*

Ray Dream, (800) 846-0111, (415) 960-0768.

Silent screen? Turn Word into a *talkie*

Need extra help running Microsoft Word 6.0? Then lend an ear to the Audio Help for Windows CD-ROM ($59.95).

The program runs concurrently with the word processor and offers nearly four hours of step-by-step audio instructions on 450 topics. If you need help saving a document or setting tabs, for example, simply click on the Audio Help for Windows icon and select the appropriate topic using either the program's search prompt or the alphabetical listing.

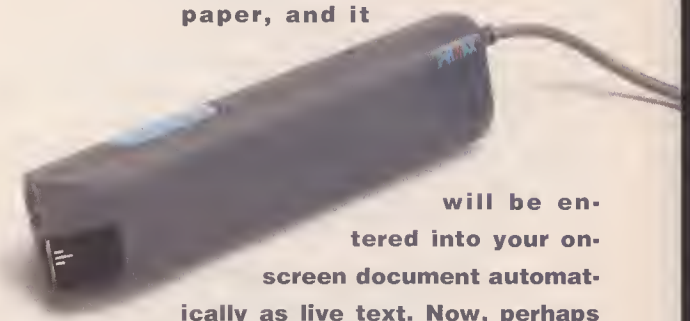


When the instructions play, you can pause, rewind or fast forward simply by clicking on an icon that resembles a cassette player. And because Audio Help runs at the same time as Word, you can try out the instructions as you hear them. Now that's one powerful duet. ***—J.T.***

Audio Help Systems, (800) 260-8209, (401) 274-5116.

With Data Pen, *words jump off the page*

Hunt-and-peck typists have more reason than ever to reach for a "pen." The Data Pen ($399), that is, a small scanner built into a wand with a thin cable connecting it to the standard ports on your PC. As you read, just swipe the Data Pen over your text on paper, and it



will be entered into your on-screen document automatically as live text. Now, perhaps they could start working on the Data Tape Recorder for office meetings... *—Sean Fulton*

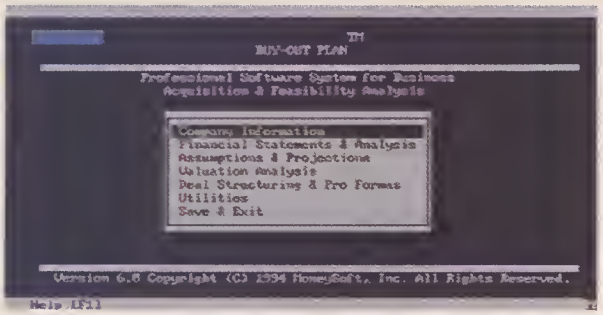
Primax Electronics, (800) 338-3693, (408) 364-2800.

Barbarians at the *Gateway*

Do you yearn to return to the cutthroat '80s, when Masters of the Universe ruled Wall Street—and the world beyond? Well, business takeovers aren't as dramatic as they used to be, but to today's entrepreneurs negotiating small- to midsize buyouts, the details of a sale are no less important. And while they may not have a team of high-priced lawyers to turn to, there *is* a software program they can use to get some advice.

Buy-Out Plan (Version 6.0 for DOS; $395 through the end of this month, $595 after Dec. 31) walks users through the steps involved in buying a company. You input sales figures or monthly revenue and the program crunches the numbers. You'll see how the company's doing, where it's headed, what it's worth and how you might structure the deal—in short, all the details banks and investors like to see before they shell out the money to finance a purchase.

Robert Machiz, Buy-Out Plan's owner, should know: After almost



20 years as a business broker, he found a software product line he liked (including the original Buy-Out Plan)—and bought the company. ***—Sarah McCraw***

MoneySoft, (800) 966-7797, (602) 266-7710.

A personal screen saver? *It's a snap*

Do your family's photos brighten your day but clutter your office? Well, clear off your desktop—by putting those portraits on your computer screen. PC Portraits for Windows turns your favorite photos into a customized slide-show screen saver. Simply send your color or black-and-white snapshots to Fishpot Images, and the company will create a customized screen saver. You can decide how long you want each picture displayed (up to an hour), or use your PC Portraits as desktop wallpaper. At $29.95 for up to eight photos, it's a space-saving alternative to framing. *—J.T.*

PC Portraits, (800) 405-0036, (314) 225-6376.

Preventing an identity crisis

The ID photo on the software box might look like the pictures on too many milk cartons, but Kidata, The Complete Family Information Center, is not meant to be used only if the worst happens—it's designed to prevent it from happening in the first place.

The Windows software ($34.95) presents a series of data screens that let you create a complete medical and personal history from birth through adulthood for every member of your family. Need an immunization report or a record of your child's allergies to present to the school? How about a list, with photos, of the only adults authorized to pick up your child after band practice? Or a collection of emergency phone numbers you can leave with the babysitter? It's all in one place, easily retrieved and

printed. You can even scan in photos and fingerprints. (Spotlight Software, which makes Kidata, will scan in one photo for free when you purchase the software and charges $5 apiece for each additional print.) ***—Carol Ellison***

Spotlight Software, (316) 683-4949.

This on-line forum is *the talk of the town*

Remember all that talk about "electronic town halls" in the last presidential race? Two years later, the Merced (Calif.) Forum on Prodigy gives the town's 60,000 residents a chance to test out the idea.

Mayor Pro Tempore David Dias, a longtime Prodigy member, conceived the forum as a way to boost interaction be-

Illustration by Christoph Hitz

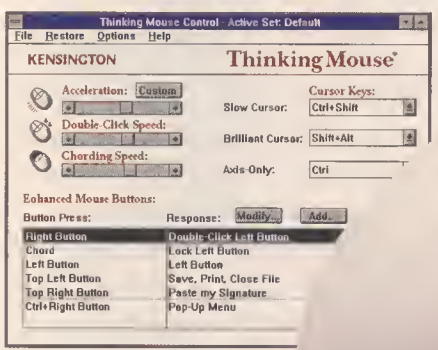
Thinking Mouse™

Because no two people think alike. Or work alike.

Or use a computer alike. But there is one thing two people can agree on. Thinking Mouse.

Introducing Thinking Mouse. The mouse designed for the way you work.

Unlike ordinary mice, Thinking Mouse is a *programmable* mouse. That means you can customize Thinking Mouse by assigning frequently used commands to different mouse buttons. And because each command executes with a single click, you work faster and save valuable time.



Thinking Mouse Control Panel

The way you program Thinking Mouse all depends on how you work. For example, you can open an application more easily by double-clicking with just one click. You can drag, scroll or highlight with less effort by locking a button down with just one click. You can even execute multi-step commands faster with a single click—like printing and saving a document, entering a block of text, logging onto a network, even sending a fax. The possibilities are endless.

Create your own pop-up menu.

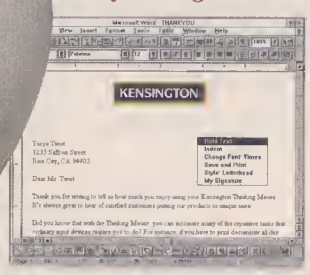
Want to save even more time?

Thinking Mouse lets you organize frequently used commands in a personalized pop-up menu.

First, you create the menu with our easy-to-use software. After that, simply click on the assigned mouse button when you want the menu to appear. Click once more to execute any command.

You can indent text, change fonts, even insert your signature into a document.

Comfortable.
Fits most hand sizes.
Satisfaction guaranteed.



Pop-Up Menu

Thinking Mouse saves time, reduces hand movements and eliminates many repetitive tasks. Its tapered design, symmetrical shape and EasyGrip™ sides offer advanced comfort and control for a variety of hand sizes, and for both right-handed and left-handed users.

The unique Kensington Satisfaction Guarantee gives you a 5-year warranty, toll-free technical support and a no-risk 90-day trial. Available in Serial & PS/2, and Bus versions.

Includes software for Windows, OS/2 and DOS. 100% Microsoft compatible. For more information, call 800-535-4242. Outside the US and Canada, 415-572-2700. For information by fax, dial extension 82 and request document 306.

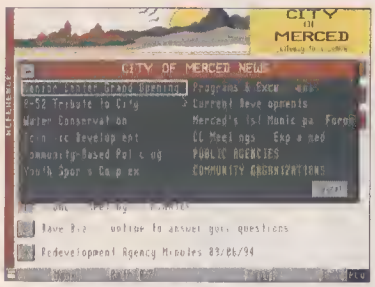
5-Year Warranty
Satisfaction Guarantee
Toll-Free Technical Support
No Risk 90-Day Trial

KENSINGTON®

EasyGrip and Thinking Mouse are trademarks and Brilliant Cursor and Kensington are registered trademarks of Kensington Microware Limited.
All other registered and unregistered trademarks are the sole property of their respective owners. © 1994 Kensington Microware Limited 10/94. Industrial design and engineering by Taylor & Chu/MOTO, San Francisco.

tween the community and its government. The town has 2,000 Prodigy members; more than 1,000 of them have logged in to the forum since its debut this summer. Terminals with access to the Merced Forum are also available to non-members at Merced's Senior Center and City Hall.

The forum includes three main sections: Merced News, where residents can get the scoop on last night's city council meeting; City Talk Bulletin Board, which is billed as an "electronic back fence"; and Write to Us, a direct e-mail link to City Hall. You can even send a message to the mayor (he promises to reply within 24 hours).



Cities across the country, including Sacramento, Calif., New York and Orlando, Fla., have requested information about launching their own forums on Prodigy. The adage says you can't fight City Hall, but before long you might be able to "flame" it. —*Sharlene Johnson*

Prodigy, (800) PRODIGY.

Here's a *shock!* Surge protector's *chic*

Tired of tripping over your computer system's spaghetti-like collection of power cords? The PowerManager holds up to five peripherals (PC, monitor, modem, speakers, and so on) inside a flat, sleek, futuristic surge protector designed to sit right under your screen.

You can control up to four devices individually with switches located on the front of the box, or control all five at once with a master switch. There are also two phone-line connectors, so you can protect your fax or modem from electrical surges brought in over

the telephone line. To top it all off, the manufacturer will replace any product (up to $25,000) that is damaged by a power surge while hooked up to the PowerManager. Now *that's* something worth tripping over. **—M.H.**

American Power Conversion, (401) 789-5735, (800) 800-4APC.

Honk if you make *your own bumper sticker!*

Is there a message you want the whole world to see? Now you can liven up any traffic jam with Slapsticks, high-gloss, self-adhesive and weather-resistant bumper stickers that come in 8½ x 11-inch perforated sheets designed to fit your printer. Just create your message and logo using your word processor or graphics program, load the Slapsticks sheets and print in landscape mode.

Slapsticks are available in two adhesives, temporary and removable. The temporary style is recommended for short-term use and allows Slapsticks to be washed off with soap and water. The re-

You'd be SURPRISED how *many* of *your* childhood FRIENDS have BECOME *teachers.*

Look what's become of all those characters you grew up with. They've all got important positions on Hanna-Barbera's Cartoon Carnival. The whole bunch of them—Yogi Bear, Scooby-Doo, Huckleberry Hound, Top Cat, The Jetsons and The Flintstones—have the responsibility of guiding your kids through this easy-to-use CD-ROM software from Philips. And since there are six games, with ten levels in each, the degree of difficulty grows at the same rate your child does. (Speaking of growing, we'll be adding two more animated titles to our library soon: "Sandy's Circus" and "Cartoon Jukebox.") That means kids can continue to laugh and learn for years to come. And to think, your parents always said you couldn't study and watch cartoons at the same time.

{For more information, call: 1-800-340-7888.}

Scooby-Doo's Adventure Isle:
Scooby takes kids through a maze full of hidden walls and secret doors, teaching concentration skills along the way.

Yogi Bear's Pic-A-Nic Place:
Yogi challenges your child's memory skills by asking them to match silly sounds found in his collection of picnic baskets.

PHILIPS MEDIA FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT

MAC & PC CD-ROM

CD-i CD FOR YOUR TV

Hanna-Barbera Cartoon Carnival © 1994 Turner Publishing Inc. All character names, likenesses and related indicia are trademarks of Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. © 1994 Hanna-Barbera Productions, Inc. All rights reserved. © 1994 Philips Media. All rights reserved.

movable stickers are recommended for more permanent applications. They can be removed with a wipe-on, peel-off solvent.

Available in two sizes (2½ x 11-inch, 60 per pack, and 3½ x 11 inch, 40 per pack, $19.95 each) Slapsticks give new meaning to the phrase "Information Highway." — *Melissa Gelb*

Williams & Macias, (800) 752-4400, (509) 359-6312.

Typing in *longhand*

You love your word processor, but you miss the personal touch of a handwritten note. You've tried generic script fonts, but they don't really capture your personality. Now, Personal Font, a made-to-order typeface, promises to bring your own handwriting to the screen.

How do the designers achieve the realistic results? First, you provide a writing sample on a special form that

asks you to write such strange-looking words as "waywhips" and "skyque," revealing the way in which you link certain letters when you write. Each lowercase letter has not just one but several possible shapes, and the company is then able to vary the shape of every letter in a word according to its connection to the letters before and after it, just like your own writing. (Pick up a pen and write the word "subsystems"; you'll notice that every S is probably slightly different from the others.)

Your disk will arrive in the mail in four to six weeks. Personal Font ($99.95, plus $7.95 for the application form) is easy to install and works like any other font on your PC (Windows 3.1 or above) or Macintosh (System 6.05 or above). It also requires a PostScript printer (check your printer's manual to see if it uses this language). ***—S.J.***

Signature Software, (800) 925-8840, (503) 386-3221. ●

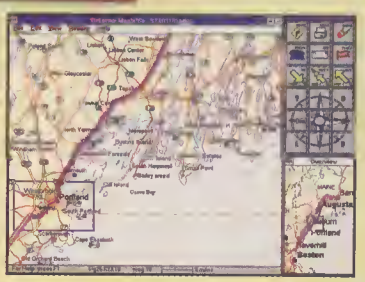
FROM DELORME MAPPING

NEVER GET LOST AGAIN!

(and save money, too!!)

Fire up the world's most detailed, fun, and fascinating mapping software on your computer — and take advantage of special holiday pricing!

NEW! Map'n'Go™ ONLY $59 DIRECT



Take the guesswork out of planning your next trip! Map'n'Go links computer technology with detailed travel information – maps covering 1 million miles of roads; listings of hotels, inns, and campgrounds; restaurant reviews; and sightseeing attractions throughout North America – complete with multimedia pictures and narration. Once you've planned your trip, Map'n'Go prints out a personalized map of your route oriented in the correct direction of travel! Includes a 128-page, full-color North America road atlas – absolutely free! CD-ROM for Windows.

Street Atlas USA™ NOW ONLY $99 DIRECT

"IF YOU DON'T HAVE IT, GET IT" –BYTE

Find any street in the country in the blink of an eye. Print detailed maps of any city, town, or off-the-beaten track boondocks in the entire United States. Search for locations by place name, ZIP code, telephone exchange, or street name, and zoom in and out with ease. CD-ROM for Windows and Macintosh.

Global Explorer® NOW ONLY $69 DIRECT

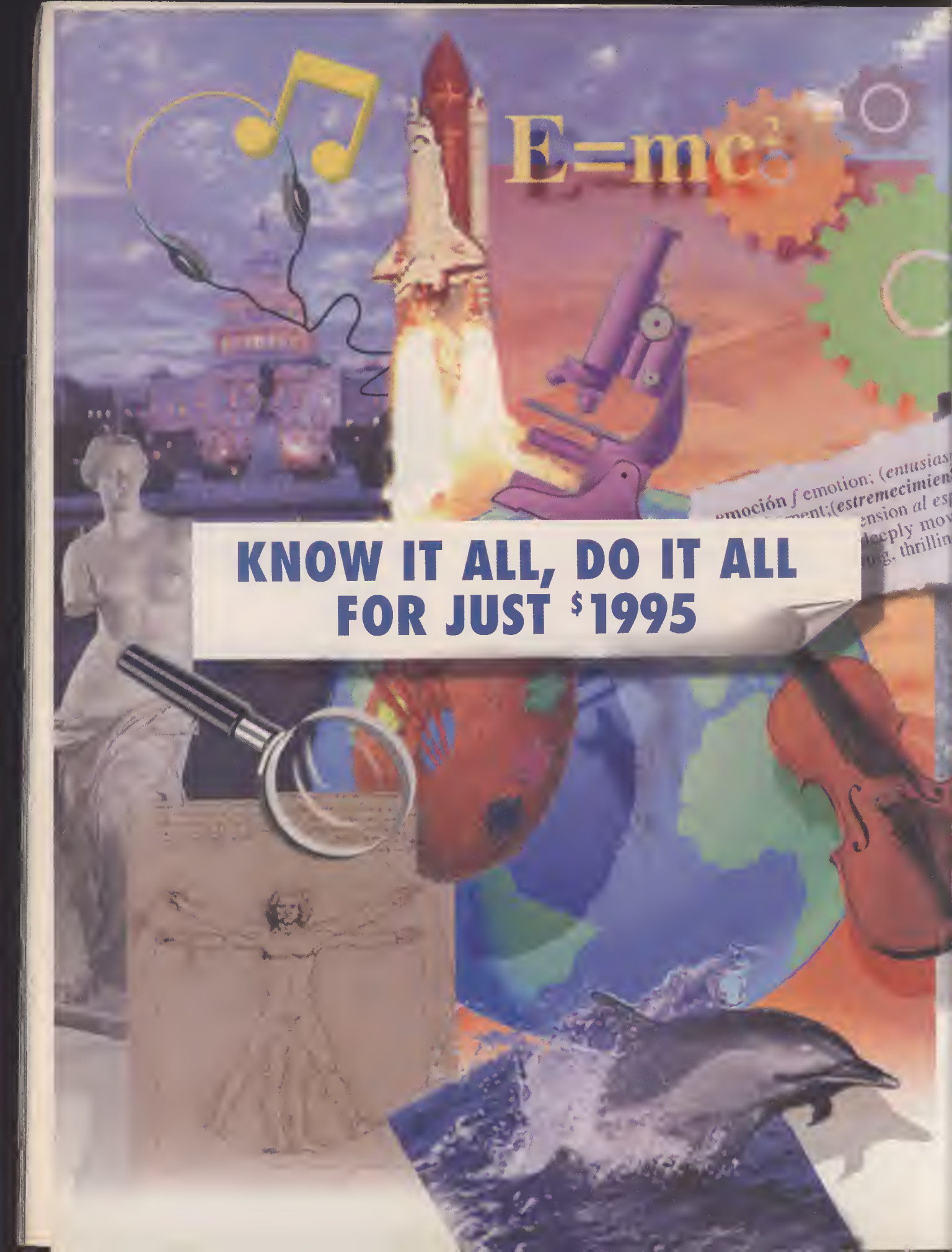
"DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT GLOBAL EXPLORER" –PC/COMPUTING

Explore the earth with the most detailed world atlas ever produced – a virtual computer globe more than 260-feet around! Includes topographic maps of the world and street maps of 100 major cities. Call up fascinating descriptions of historical, cultural, and geographic features, and travel the world on a network of airline routes. CD-ROM for Windows.

All three packages are available at your favorite retail store, or direct from DeLorme.

ORDER TODAY! 1-800-452-5931, ext. 8199

30-day money-back guarantee


E=mc²
KNOW IT ALL, DO IT ALL
FOR JUST $1995

ENRICH AND ENTERTAIN THE WHOLE FAMILY

The **486 Family Edition System** from USA Flex offers your family the experience of visiting exotic, far off lands, the heart-pounding excitement of flying your own jet, the convenience of having volumes of knowledge at your fingertips or the peace of mind and security that comes with controlling your family's finances and planning their future. This powerful multimedia system from USA Flex is packed with all the hardware and software your family will need, and best of all, it can all be yours for only...

$1995

Intel 486DX2-66 CPU

• 8MB RAM (Easily Upgradable to 64MB RAM) • 256K L2 Cache • 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Drive • 420MB IDE Hard Drive w/128K Cache • Hercules Stingray VLB Graphics Accelerator Card w/1MB • Sony Int. 320ms Double-Spin CD-ROM Drive • Creative Labs Sound Blaster 16 bit Sound Card with CD Quality 20 Voice Stereo Sound and Game Port • 15" .28dp Energy Star compliant Color Monitor, up to 1280x1024*i* SVGA resolution • VLB I/O IDE • 14.4/I4.4 Data/Fax Modem w/Win. & DOS S/W • Microsoft Mouse • 101 Key Keyboard • 2-Button Joystick • Stereo Headphones • Stereo Speakers • MS-DOS 6.22 • MS Window for Workgroups 3.11

PLUS! DELUXE COLLECTION OF EDUCATIONAL, GAME, & BUSINESS/HOME CD TITLES

Including: Compton's New Century Encyclopedia • Interactive World Atlas • CIA World Fact Book • Consumer Information Catalog • RoboCop 3D • ChessMaster 2100 • Might & Magic 2 • EPIC • Contraption ZAK • Paper Boy 2 • F29 Retaliator • Push-Over • D/Generation • Virtual Work Space • MS Works for Windows (WP, Data Base & Spreadsheet) • MS SoundBytes • MS Money • MS Best of Entertainment Pack (13 games) • Corel CD PowerPak™ (includes 2 CD's with 100 photo images plus 150 sound and music clips)

The Flex Fomily Edition System feotures... Intel 486DX2 66MHz processor
Hercules Stingray VLB video
Sony double-spin CD-ROM
Sound Bloster by Creotive Lobs
Corel CD PowerPock
Plus... Microsoft Works for Windows
Microsoft Best of Entertoinment Pock
Microsoft Money
Microsoft Sound Bytes

intel inside

For The Total Experience, upgrade your Family Edition System with one of these quality printers...

Texas Instruments microMarc™ COLOR PRINTER

Add fast, vivid color to schoolwork, personal projects or office work!

Total price (includes system bundle, printer and FREE printer cable **$2369**

brother HL-630

Get the Straight Paper Path Advantage

Total price (includes system bundle, printer and FREE printer cable **$2389**

EPSON STYLUS Color Printer

...the World's only 720x720 COLOR ink jet printer!

Total price (includes system bundle, printer and FREE printer cable **$2549**

Panasonic KX-SP100

...everything you need - plain and simple. Laser printer, fax, personal copier all-in-one!

Total price (includes system bundle, printer and FREE printer cable **$2789**

USA FLEX 1-800-374-9903

471 Brighton Dr., Bloomingdale, IL 60108

708-582-6206 • FAX 708-351-7204
24 Hours Monday - Friday
9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday & Sunday

Federal Express Delivery Service Available

Ask for your copy of our Flex Catalog with money-saving prices on over 8,000 Brand Name computer products.

Code # HP1204

Intel and Intel Inside logo are Registered Trademarks of Intel Corporation.

"MAKE IT SO."™

Be part of an epic new adventure with Captain Picard,™ Commander Riker™ and all the rest of the Starship Enterprise™ crew.

"A Final Unity" is an original intergalactic epic of mystery and danger that takes you from the outposts of Federation space through treacherous encounters with alien starships and beyond—into the uncharted dangers of a massive nebula.

Take control from the bridge or leave the ship to embark on critical Away Team missions. This interactive CD-ROM journey is a true extension of the famed TV series with accuracy in all details, *including voice-overs by all seven of the television stars.*

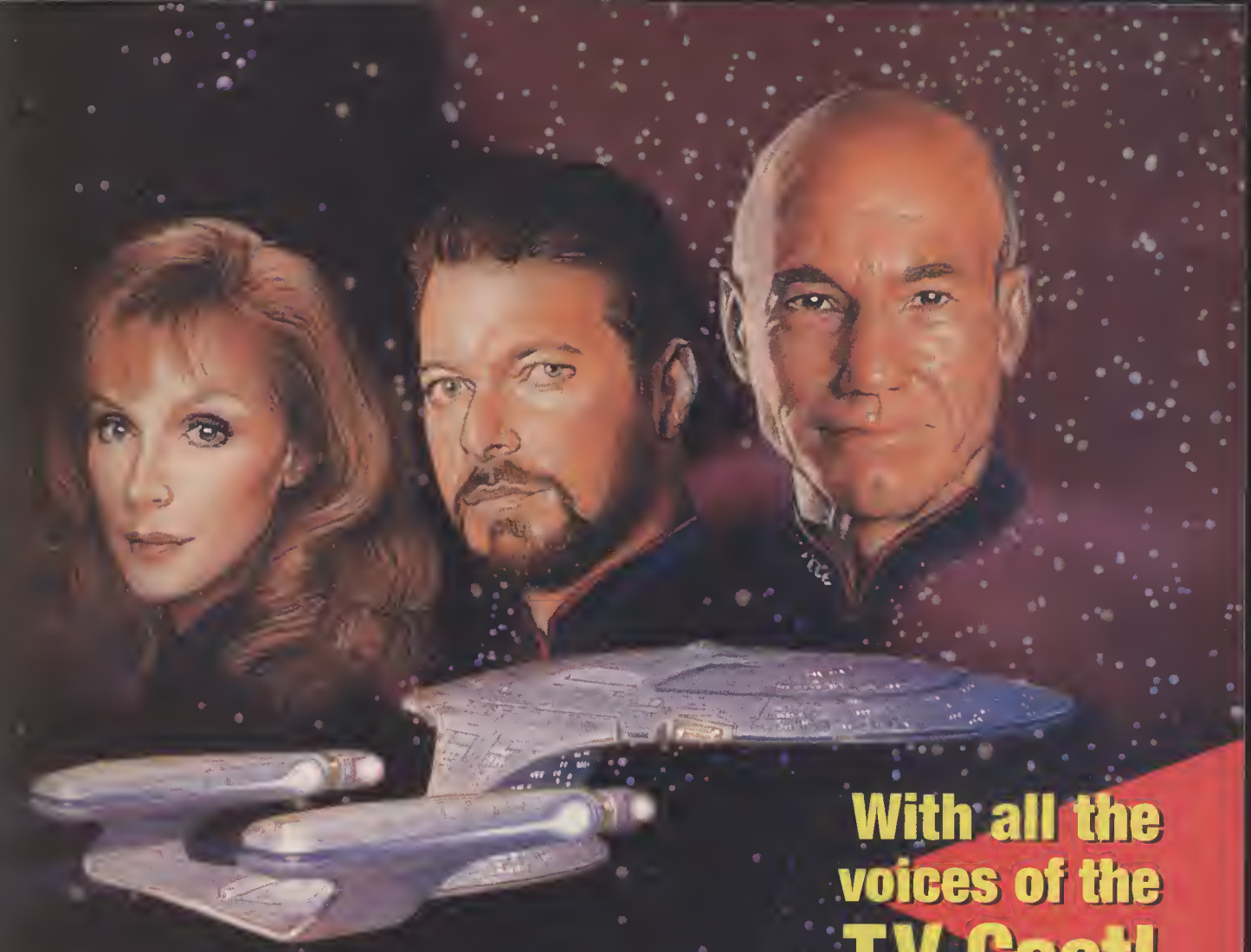
Beam your crew to mysterious planets. Maneuver the U.S.S. Enterprise™ through strange galaxies to worlds beyond your imagination. *You're* in command, working hand in hand with the most respected crew in the Federation!

No other space adventure comes close to the reality of this CD-ROM excursion which is brought to life by characters who speak to you, rich cinematic sequences, incredible SVGA graphics and CD-quality sound and music. Experience hours of entertaining exploration and discovery as you freely travel the universe to unravel a mystery from the ancient past in this STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION® epic.

Make it so. Take your post and *Engage!*

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION® "A Final Unity."®

® and © 1994 Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved. STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION is a Registered Trademark of Paramount Pictures. Spectrum HoloByte is an Authorized User. Spectrum HoloByte is a registered trademark of Spectrum HoloByte, Inc. Other trademarks are the property of their respective holders.

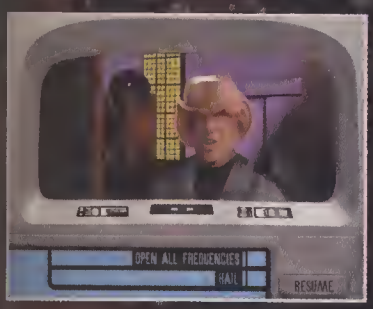


With all the voices of the TV Cast!

Tension builds on the bridge as another Red Alert appears imminent.

Alert your Away Team and pick the right combination of talent for each critical mission.

Available for IBM CD-ROM



Open hailing frequencies and prepare for the unexpected.

Beam down to exotic worlds as the mystery of an ancient and highly advanced civilization slowly unfolds.

Also look for STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION "Future's Past" on Super NES®.

Spectrum HoloByte

2490 Mariner Square Loop, Alameda, CA 94501

Visit your local retailer or call 24 hours:
1-800-695-GAME (USA and Canada)

best buys

GREAT VALUES FOR SAVVY SHOPPERS

BY JULIE COHEN

It pays to track prices after you buy

Purchasing a new computer is always a calculated risk—you never know if the model you take home today will have an "Unbelievable New Low Price" next week. The good news is that some sellers guarantee you won't be penalized for buying a PC from them if prices suddenly fall.

If you purchase hardware from Dell Computer, for example, and the company lowers its prices within 30 days, you're entitled to the difference if you request a refund in writing within that same 30-day period. Gateway 2000 has a similar policy, as do retailers such as OfficeMax and Staples. But it's up to you to know if prices change, so keep your eyes peeled to keep your pockets full.

A solid warranty (fine print included)

Canon's new InstantExchange warranty program makes buying a printer or peripheral practically free of risk from technical failures. The warranty covers all hardware problems on any Canon product for two years, and is included in the purchase price of the unit. Just call Canon's toll-free technical support line to have your printer's problem diagnosed. If the glitch can't be fixed over the telephone, Canon promises to send a replacement within 24 hours. You don't have to return the broken unit until you receive the new one, and Canon pays all shipping costs.

Canon, (800) 848-4123, (714) 438-3000.

A low-cost CD celebrates freedom

It's rare to find a CD-ROM that costs $10; rarer still is a disc for that price that is entertaining and delivers an important message. Since 1961, Amnesty International has campaigned for the release of prisoners of conscience around the world, fair and prompt trials for the accused and an end to government-sponsored torture. Now the group is bringing its crusade to home computers with Amnesty Interactive, which examines the history of modern-day human rights violations and shows you how to help stop abuses.

The Macintosh disc contains case histories, photos and portraits of some of the political prisoners Amnesty has supported over the years; an atlas of 84 countries and their human rights

Illustration by Peter Hoey

records; and short video interviews with musicians Peter Gabriel and Jackson Browne.

The Voyager Company, (800) 446-2001, (212) 431-5199; Amnesty International, (212) 807-8400.

Add Word to your Bookshelf for $99

If you're thinking about upgrading to Microsoft Word, this may be the time. Now you can buy the word processing program *and* a copy of Microsoft Bookshelf, which offers a rich library of reference material that can be easily incorporated into Word documents, for $129. And you can save $30 more by mailing in the rebate coupon that comes with the program before Dec. 31.

The Word & Bookshelf Windows CD-ROM combines Word 6.0 with Bookshelf '94, which sells for about $70 if purchased separately. If you're buying the two programs for the first time, you can expect to pay about $350, although Microsoft is offering first-time Word/Bookshelf purchasers a $50 rebate through Dec. 31.

Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080.

Top of the charts

Education

1. **Encarta** ..... *Microsoft*
2. **Bookshelf*** ..... *Microsoft*
3. **Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing** ..... *The Software Toolworks*
4. **The Oregon Trail** ..... *MECC*
5. **Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?** ..... *Broderbund Software*
6. **Math Blaster: In Search of Spot*** ..... *Davidson*
7. **Reader Rabbit 1** ..... *The Learning Company*
8. **Mario Teaches Typing** ..... *Interplay*
9. **Where in the USA Is Carmen Sandiego?** ..... *Broderbund Software*
10. **Dinosaur Adventure 3-D** ..... *Knowledge Adventure*

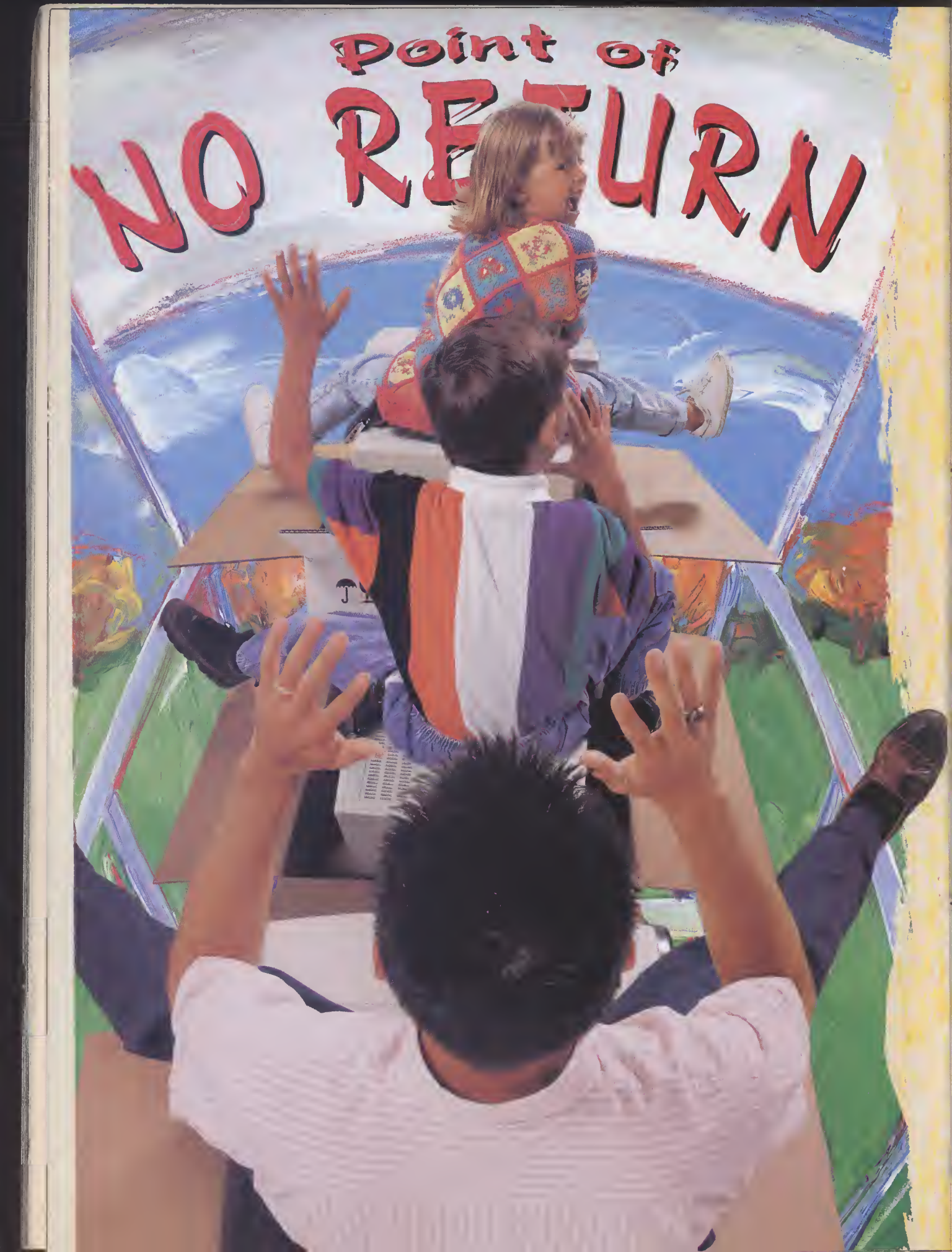
Games

1. **TIE Fighter*** ..... *LucasArts*
2. **5 Ft. 10 Pak** ..... *Sirius Publishing*
3. **Myst** ..... *Broderbund Software*
4. **Outpost** ..... *Sierra On-Line*
5. **SimCity 2000** ..... *Maxis*
6. **The 7th Guest** ..... *Virgin Interactive*
7. **Star Wars Rebel Assault** ..... *LucasArts*
8. **Flight Simulator** ..... *Microsoft*
9. **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*** ..... *Xiphias*
10. **X-Wing*** ..... *LucasArts*

Personal productivity

1. **Quicken for Windows** ..... *Intuit*
2. **Quicken 6.0 (MS-DOS)** ..... *Intuit*
3. **Home Design 3-D for Windows** ..... *Expert Software*
4. **3-D Home Architecture** ..... *Broderbund Software*
5. **Print Shop Deluxe CD Ensemble** ..... *Broderbund Software*
6. **Print Shop Deluxe for Windows** ..... *Broderbund Software*
7. **Resume Writer for Windows** ..... *Expert Software*
8. **Street Atlas USA*** ..... *DeLorme Mapping*
9. **Money for Windows*** ..... *Microsoft*
10. **Fonts for Windows*** ..... *Expert Software*

*Source: PC Data (for July 1994). * indicates first time on charts.*


Point of
NO RETURN

Golf
CRYSTALSCAN

GATEWAY2000
FamilyPC

P5-75 Family PC™

- Intel® 75MHz Pentium™ Processor
  Intel Verified: Upgradable
- 8MB RAM, 256KB Cache
- 730MB 13ms IDE Hard Drive
- PCI Enhanced IDE Interface
- PCI Local Bus Graphics with 1MB
- Double-Speed CD-ROM
- 16-Bit Sound Card &
  Altec Speakers
- TelePath™ II 14.4K Fax/Modem
- 3.5" Diskette Drive
- 15" Vivitron™ Color Monitor
- Desktop Case
- 124-AnyKey® Keyboard & Mouse
- MS-DOS® 6.22 & WFW 3.11
- MS Works,™ Encarta, Money,™
  Cinemania '95, Fine Artist & Golf
- 3-Year Limited Parts Warranty
- Excellent Service & Support

$2499 *(Other models start as low as $1,499)*

90 DAYS
NO PAYMENTS

Ask about our 90-Day No Payment Program!

© 1994 Gateway 2000, Inc. "G" logo, "You've got a friend in the business" slogan and Gateway 2000 are registered trademarks, and DuoLine and Family PC are trademarks of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Intel, and Pentium are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. Monitors' diagonal measurements indicate the size of the cathode-ray tube. All prices and configurations are subject to change without notice or obligation. Prices do not include shipping or applicable sales tax.

All aboard for heart-pounding thrills!

Take a breathless ride up and down and around the world of multimedia with a Family PC from Gateway 2000®! It's a new discovery around every bend. So exhilarating that you and your children will never want to come back!

There's virtually no end to all the incredible things you can do with this fully equipped Gateway 2000 multimedia system. Preparing your child for the vast superhighway of tomorrow is exciting and challenging. And you'll know you're buying from a company that'll be here to support you. Gateway 2000 is a Fortune 500 company with roots in South Dakota. Our friendly Midwestern employees are ready to provide you with award-winning service and support as you explore this breathtaking new world.

Starting as a low as $1,499, Gateway's full line of Family PCs give you all the features you need for today and tomorrow. Our top-of-the-line P5-75 Family PC is based on Intel's Pentium processor for screaming performance. And a fast CD-ROM drive and quality sound system give you the ability to experience sound, video, animation and pictures on all your programs and games. You can even play all your favorite music CDs with super stereo sound. And with a TelePath II fax/modem you can connect with people from all over the world!

Experience the magic behind the movies with Microsoft®'s Cinemania '95, and see an encyclopedia come to life with moving pictures and stereo sound when you run MS Encarta with the 16-bit sound card and Altec speakers. With Microsoft Fine Artist, kids can create pictures and projects with dozens of wacky sounds. For work at home, MS Works packs all the tools for your business and personal needs, and MS Money helps you manage all your finances. Or take time out to traverse the links of Microsoft's Multimedia Golf on those lazy Sunday afternoons. All this software is pre-installed on your Gateway Family PC.

Gateway 2000 desktop systems and monitors also include a three-year warranty, and you'll get free telephone technical support for the life of your system. We accept most major credit cards, or you can apply for a Gateway 2000 DuoLine™ MasterCard® Card issued by Dial National Bank, Des Moines, Iowa. Call us today for your ticket to the exciting new world of multimedia!

intel inside
pentium PROCESSOR

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."®

800-846-4507

610 Gateway Drive • North Sioux City, SD • 57049-2000
Sales Hours: 7am-10pm Weekdays, 9am-4pm Saturdays (CDT)

Consumer survival is Howard's end

Would you spend $39.95 for information that can help you save hundreds of dollars, avoid telemarketing scams and learn about such complicated subjects as disability insurance, wills and auto leasing? Then investing in Clark Howard's Consumer Survival Kit CD-ROM may pay off.

Howard is a consumer advocate/columnist/radio talk-show host in Atlanta. His Windows disc's seven sections—cars; real estate; savings and investing; insurance; travel; the basics (subjects as varied as multilevel marketing organizations and dry cleaning); and rip-offs (common scams)—offer common-sense advice in plain English.

The presentation is first-rate, with sound and video clips, logical organization and impressive insights. If a fool and his money are soon parted, the lessons in the Consumer Survival Kit will help see to it that you and your cash are together for a long time.

The Mescon Group, (800) 656-1932, (404) 656-1929.

Save your data and your cash

Looking for an easy, inexpensive way to back up your hard drive? With the introduction of its new top-of-the-line 230-megabyte (MB) Bernoulli drive, Iomega has sharply reduced

Top of the charts

CD-ROM

1. **Myst** ..... *Broderbund Software*
2. **5 Ft. 10 Pak** ..... *Sirius Publishing*
3. **Outpost** ..... *Sierra On-Line*
4. **The 7th Guest** ..... *Virgin Interactive*
5. **Star Wars Rebel Assault** ..... *LucasArts*
6. **Encarta** ..... *Microsoft*
7. **Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*** ..... *Xiphias*
8. **Bookshelf** ..... *Microsoft*
9. **Corel Gallery** ..... *Corel*
10. **X-Com*** ..... *Microprose*

Macintosh education

1. **The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia** ..... *Grolier*
2. **Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing** ..... *The Software Toolworks*
3. **Mario Teaches Typing** ..... *Interplay*
4. **The Oregon Trail** ..... *MECC*
5. **New Math Blaster Plus** ..... *Davidson*
6. **Kid Pix 2** ..... *Broderbund Software*
7. **Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?** ..... *Broderbund Software*
8. **Reader Rabbit 1** ..... *The Learning Company*
9. **Just Grandma and Me** ..... *Broderbund Software*
10. **The Playroom** ..... *Broderbund Software*

Macintosh games

1. **Myst** ..... *Broderbund Software*
2. **SimCity 2000** ..... *Maxis*
3. **Castles: Siege & Conquest*** ..... *Interplay*
4. **Jump Raven*** ..... *Cyberflix*
5. **Chessmaster 3000** ..... *The Software Toolworks*

Macintosh personal productivity

1. **Quicken** ..... *Intuit*
2. **Print Shop Deluxe** ..... *Broderbund Software*
3. **Aldus HomePublisher** ..... *Aldus*
4. **WillMaker*** ..... *Nolo Press*
5. **Resume Maker*** ..... *Individual Software*

*Source: PC Data (for July 1994). * indicates first time on charts.*

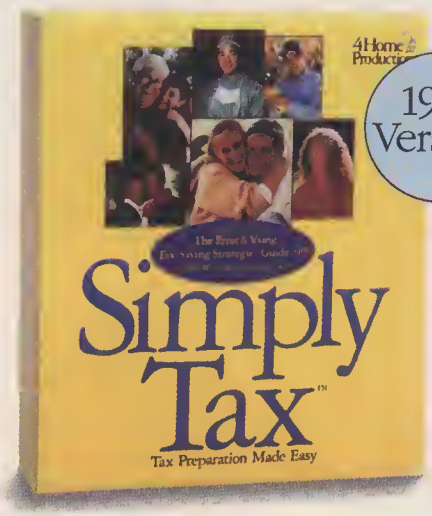
We can do what the House, the Senate and the President won't. Help you cut your taxes.

Politicians promise to cut taxes. Unfortunately, it's a promise they rarely keep.

That's why you need the 1994 version of Simply Tax.™ With detailed tax-saving tips from The Ernst & Young Tax-Saving Strategies Guide 1995, a John Wiley & Sons publication. You can immediately start looking for ways to lower your tax bill.

From tips on how to maximize your current income to using the tax law to help you plan for a secure retirement, this guide gives you everything you need to keep more of what you make.

In addition to the tax-saving tips, Simply Tax provides a deduction finder† to help you take full advantage of an itemized return. What's more, Simply Tax has an innovative PathFinder that lets you quickly navigate through the program.



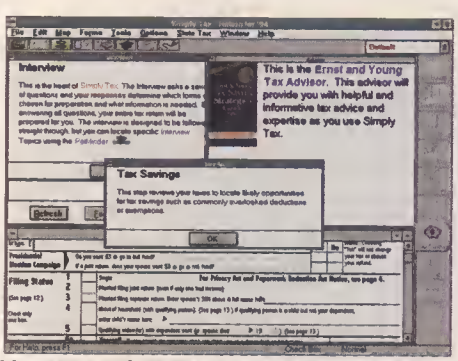
There's also a powerful step-by-step interactive Interview feature that guides you through your tax return from start to finish.

And when your return is completed, an Electronic Filing† option lets you file quickly and easily via modem or diskette.

Simply Tax. Because it shouldn't take an act of Congress to help you cut your taxes.

Simply Tax Features:

- **Tax Tips From The Ernst & Young Tax-Saving Strategies Guide 1995, a John Wiley & Sons publication**
- **PathFinder**
- **Interactive Interview**
- **Direct Import Of Personal Finance**
- **Deduction Finder**
- **Electronic Filing**
- **Final Checklist**
- **What Now?**
- **Extended Tech Support For Tax Season**



It's easy to see why 800,000 people already use Simply Tax.

Save $15 with our Special Money Back Offer. See your local dealer for details or call 1-800-773-5445, dept. T1275, for the dealer nearest you.

4Home Productions™
A Division Of Computer Associates International, Inc.

Special pricing offer good from 11/1/94-1/31/95 at participating dealers. † Available in the Final Edition only. Windows 3.1 release (or higher) required. Available only on 3.5 diskettes.
© 4Home Productions is a division of Computer Associates International Inc., Islandia, NY 11788-7000. All product names referenced herein are trademarks of their respective companies.

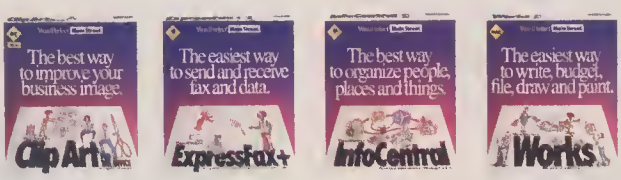
Now PC users and Mac users alike can print 600 dpi-class, presentation level output at a simple text-and-graphics price.

Both the OL410e and the OL410e/PS with Adobe® PostScript™ are designed for laser-class output, so you can produce great looking sales presentations, newsletters and direct mail flyers easily and affordably.

The LED printhead carries a 5 year limited warranty, and the print speed is a fast 4 pages-per-minute.

And after 20 years and 7 million printers, we think it's safe to say you'll never find better looking output at a better looking price: the OL410e is about $700;* the OL410e/PS is under $1,000.**

Call 1-800-OKI-TEAM, ext. 539 (U.S. or Canada) for a dealer near you.



FREE SOFTWARE IF YOU ACT NOW!

Choose one of these WordPerfect® Main Street™ programs (worth up to $139†) with the purchase of an OL410e or OL410e/PS. Offer good from Oct. 1, 1994 to Dec. 31, 1994.

The OKIDATA® a Division of Oki

OL410e and 410e/PS

Personal Printers.

©1994 Okidata. Okidata Reg. T.M., M.D. Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd. WordPerfect is a registered trademark of WordPerfect Corporation. Main Street, ExpressFax, ClipArt, Works and InfoCentral are trademarks of WordPerfect Corporation worldwide. Adobe, PostScript are trademarks of the Adobe Systems Corp. which may be registered in certain jurisdictions. *Storeboard® Channel Tracking Service, June 1994. Computer Intelligence InfoCorp. **Estimated retail price. Actual dealer price may vary. †List price.

the prices of its earlier models—most notably, the Bernoulli Transportable Multidisk 90, an external data storage unit with removable cartridges that hold up to 90 MB of data. That's the equivalent of 63 1.44-MB floppy disks.

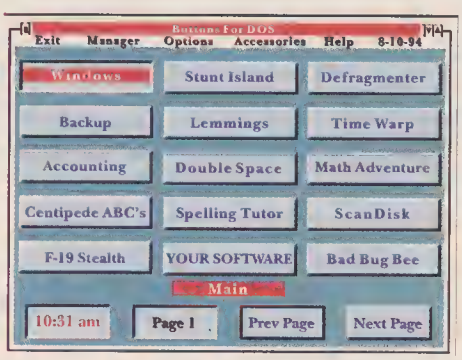
The MultiDisk 90 has a suggested retail price of $469, but you can expect to find it in stores for about $299—roughly 20 percent off its previous price. The 90-MB cartridges that hold the data should sell for around $89. Data security is cheap at any price; $1 per megabyte just happens to be a *very good* price.

Iomega, (800) 777-6654, (801) 629-7610.

A cheap imitation of Windows

If you're a die-hard Windows fan who runs an occasional DOS program, let Buttons for DOS ($29) clean up your text-heavy screen.

Triad Software has created a DOS menu system designed to mirror Windows' ease of use. Buttons for DOS scans your hard drive for DOS programs, then assigns them to a "button" on a full-screen menu. Just click the appropriate button to open the program. The software's ease of use is rivaled only by its ease of installation, which takes less than 60 seconds. *—Jennifer Trivério*



Triad Software, (800) 683-3202, (206) 683-3202. ●

PC MAGAZINE EDITORS' CHOICE
Nov. 23, 1993
Okidata OL400e

Buy an OL400e LED page printer between October 1 and December 31, 1994 and get a $75 rebate.

The OL400e produces 300 dpi laser-class output at a fast 4 pages-per-minute, and its LED printhead carries a 5 year limited warranty.

And now this remarkable value includes an equally remarkable rebate. Take advantage of them both. Act now.

For dealer information or other questions, call 1-800-OKI-TEAM, ext. 548.

©1994 Okidata. Okidata Reg. T.M., M.D. Oki Electric Industry Co., Ltd.

The
OKIDATA
OL400e
Personal Printer.

Inactive.

Smart kids need smart tools.

Why let your kids veg out in front of the tube when there's a whole lot more than rock & roll inside every AcerAcros multimedia PC. With the AcerAcros, you get a fast 486-based system with CD-ROM drive, stereo speakers and plenty of room to store all your stuff. You also get Encarta™, the world's best selling on-line encyclopedia, Microsoft Golf,™ Davidson MathBlaster®: In Search of Spot and more cool software.

Acer introduces the home PC that stretches your mind, not your budget.

Packed with software that comes to life through sight and sound, the AcerAcros® multimedia PCs give your kids the advantage they need to stay ahead of the curve. And you'll love how all the great software will help you with all that grown-up stuff too!

No one else offers such a complete package at such an affordable price. When it comes to value and quality, you can't beat Acer.

ACER COMPUTERS • THE INDUSTRY SOURCE

Acer®

The Industry Source Means Value.

To order an Acer system or for a retailer near you, call 1-800-309-ACER

Acer, the Acer logo and AcerAcros are registered trademarks of Acer America Corporation and Acer, incorporated. All other brands and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. © 1994 Acer America Corporation. All rights reserved.

When learning's this much

Introducing entertainment software that actually teaches kids

Having been raised by television, it's probably no surprise that our generation can't seem to get much beyond the flashing "12:00" on a VCR. At GTE, we thought our kids deserved better. A lot better. Like characters you can interact with, rather than just stare at. And story lines that aren't recycled like an old re-run.

Introducing Interactive Toys, designed specifically for the inquisitive ages of 3 to 9. Starting from scratch, we've loaded our CD ROMs (PC and Macintosh) with exciting new concepts, animation, sound and digitized video. Then we added a friendly point-and-click interface and a cast of characters that will encourage your child every step of the way.

Whether your kids are touring the oceans with Vitsie™ or playing a junior detective in our Lost & Found™ series, Interactive Toys are designed for maximum playability, with hundreds of game variations to explore. Best of all, kids get to

GTE

* There is a nominal charge for shipping and handling. ©1994 GTE Vantage Incorporated. All rights reserved. Vitsie is a trademark of Steve Lomas. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.

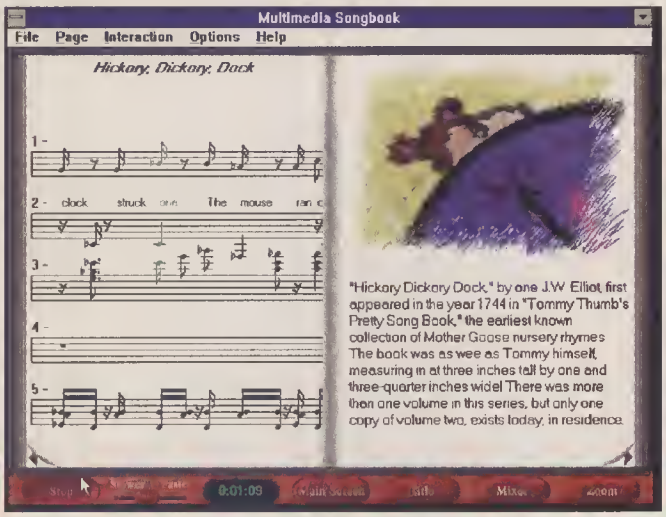
fun, who needs television?

something along the way.

discover and learn at their own pace (which, any parent will tell you, can approach the speed of light).

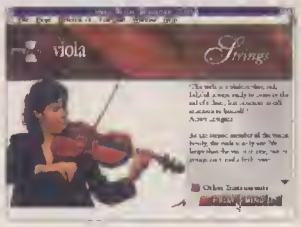
To purchase a toy that will never grow old, visit the software retailer nearest you. Or, order directly from GTE by calling 1800 GTE TODAY. Customer representatives will be happy to answer any questions or send you a brief video* on the products. Of course, no video can compare to an interactive disk, but that's the whole point, isn't it?

interactive TOYS™



KEEPING TIME *vs.* KILLING TIME

There are times when tearing out the heart of your opponent just isn't the right thing to do.



Like when you want to express yourself, be creative, or explore an art form with the family. For those times, nothing is more fun or rewarding than music software by Midisoft®.

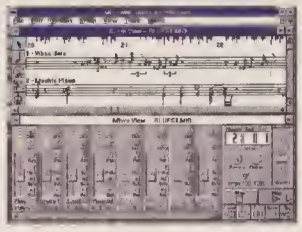
Many of our budget-priced Windows programs give your PC the capabilities of an in-home music recording studio. Others let you learn and explore the magical world of music. All offer endless hours of wholesome enjoyment.

Our newest CD-ROM, Music Mentor-Maestro Edition™, for example, takes you on an ever-changing journey through composers, performers, musical instruments, and music basics.

Or, there's Multimedia Songbook™, another new CD-ROM that's the next step beyond CDs and tapes, offering you a unique way to experience and creatively interact with hours of music.

With Midisoft Studio™ you can record, compose, and print your own music.

Our MIDI Kit includes the world's most popular recording and composing software plus a cable for connecting your sound card to a MIDI musical instrument.



So, if spending more quality time with your computer sounds good, see your software reseller, or call us today.

MIDISOFT® CORPORATION

P.O. Box 1000 • Bellevue, WA 98009 USA • 206-881-7176.

Free Catalog, Friendly Advice 1-800-776-6434 (8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Pacific Time).

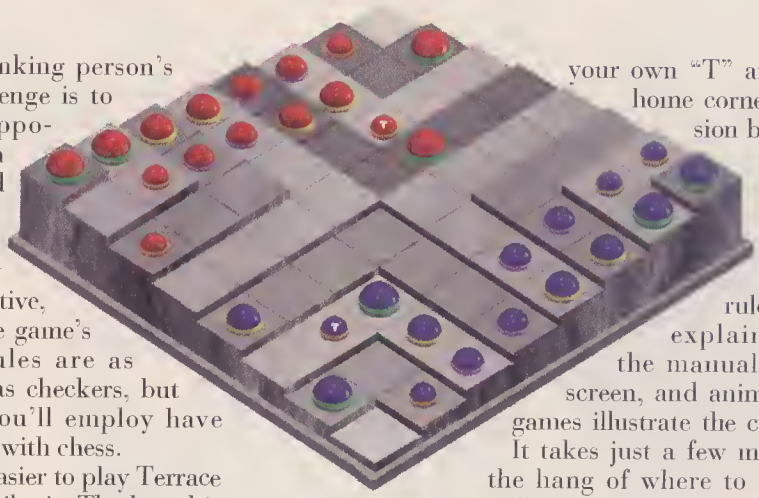
Available at: Ballard Computer • Best Buy • Boscov's
CompUSA • Computer City • Egghead Software • Electronics Boutique • Fry's Electronics • Future Shop • Lechmere

© 1994 Midisoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Midisoft and the Midisoft logo are registered trademarks; Music Mentor-Maestro Edition, Multimedia Songbook, and Midisoft Studio are trademarks of Midisoft Corporation. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation.

fun and games

GREAT ESCAPES FOR GROWN-UPS

Terrace
Siler/Siler Ventures
(Strategy)



Terrace is a thinking person's game. The challenge is to capture your opponent's "T," a small, marked playing piece, or move your own "T" all the way across the innovative, tiered board. The game's concept and rules are as straightforward as checkers, but the strategies you'll employ have more in common with chess.

It's probably easier to play Terrace than it is to describe it. The board is a grid of 64 squares, with four "staircases" originating in each of the corners—two rise up from diagonally opposing corners, and two descend to the other two opposite corners.

Each player begins with 16 dome-shaped pieces, four pieces in each of four sizes. One of the four smallest pieces has the aforementioned "T" on it; that's the one you have to guard with your life.

The board setup recalls checkers. Each player's pieces start along the two back rows on each side, in size order. The largest pieces occupy the highest tiers in the last row; in the front row, the larger pieces sit on the lower tiers. Your "T" piece is on the lowest corner in the back row.

Still with us? OK. Using a series of forward, backward and diagonal moves, you ascend and descend the terraces in an effort to clear a path that will enable your "T" to reach the opposite corner or capture your opponent's "T" by landing on it. You'll have to guard your own "T" and your own home corner from invasion by your opponent—either another person or the computer.

Terrace's rules are clearly explained both in the manual and on the screen, and animated sample games illustrate the concepts well. It takes just a few minutes to get the hang of where to move, but a well-played game can last as long as 90 minutes.

The only thing this Windows game lacks is an on-screen strategy guide, so here's a little advice: Certain game situations call for "cannibalism." Sometimes it pays to capture one of your own playing pieces to get out of a tight jam, trap your opponent or clear a path on the board.

Terrace incognita: a little *checkers*, a little *chess*, a lot of *fun*

★ ★ ★ 1/2

Terrace began as a conventional board game. But it's well worth installing this challenging, intelligent program on your computer. Once you experience its elegant brilliance, you'll be eager to play it again and again.

$39.95 (Windows) from Siler/Siler Ventures, (503) 635-6333.

by julie cohen

Also reviewed in Fun and Games

- **Shadow of the Comet**
- **Lunicus**
- **The Psychotron**
- **Heart: 20 Years of Rock and Roll**
- **Ultimate Coaches Club Football**
- **Inherit the Earth**

★ **Reading the stars:** Each program reviewed in this section is rated on a scale of 0 to 4 stars based on originality, puzzle difficulty, longevity, writing, characters, interface, learning curve, graphics, music and sound effects, user's manual and quirks.

Now appearing: *Halley* hunter

Shadow of the Comet
I-Motion
(Adventure)

The year is 1910. Astronomer John Parker has arrived in Illsmouth, a sleepy New England town, to explore the link between Halley's comet, which passed overhead 76 years ago, and some mysterious goings-on. But Parker has to act fast; in just three days, the comet will return, and who knows what new disasters may be unleashed in its wake.

Shadow of the Comet, based on the novels of horror writer H.P. Lovecraft, makes for a fairly typical adventure game, but its graphics are bold, it contains more than 100 scenes and it uses the full screen to present its stylish characters in wary, wide-eyed detail.

The townsfolk are too terrified to be of much help to you, playing as Parker, so you must make friends carefully if you're to solve the mystery and save Illsmouth from the comet's spell. Act kindly to strangers and you're likely to advance. Your interactions, however, are fairly standard: Pick up objects you find on the way, use them together with other objects or give them to other characters you meet. Your actions determine whether characters will become friends or enemies, so don't be rash in your responses.

★ ★ 1/2

Shadow's major weakness is its controls. It's awkward to move using the mouse, since you need to click to change direction and click again to move. Using the keyboard is easier, as long as you have your manual handy—it contains the lengthy list of the commands you'll need to be on your way.

$59.95 (DOS) from I-Motion, (800) 443-3386, (310) 576-1888.

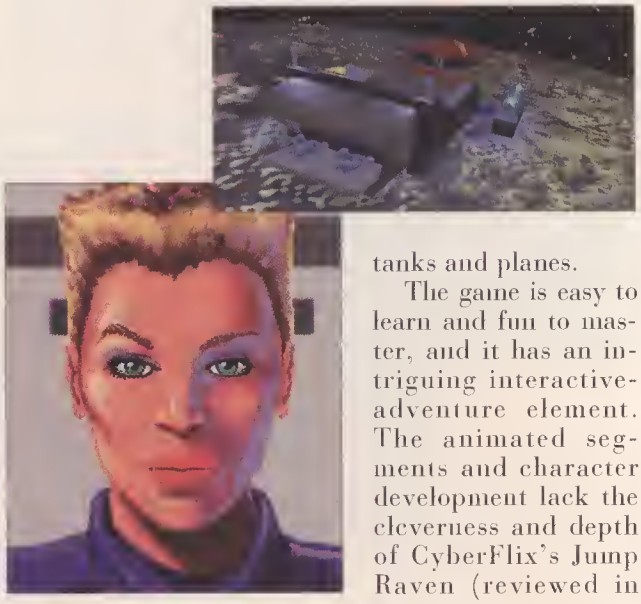
Invasion of the booty *snatchers*

Lunicus
CyberFlix
(Arcade, adventure)

CyberFlix, one of the hottest Macintosh game developers around, now brings the hyperactive arcade adventure, Lunicus, to the PC. This winner uses state-of-the art three-dimensional graphics and a crunching rock soundtrack to keep your adrenaline pumping as you try to fend off the space invaders that threaten the Earth.

It's the year 2023 at the United Nations Moonbase Lunicus. Back on Earth, an army of mechanized aliens is intent on stealing a set of prized ancient artifacts recently discovered by a group of top scientists. You take off from Lunicus in your fighter plane and zip through the streets of Los Angeles, Tokyo and Moscow with high-tech rockets, grenade launchers and plasma cannons. They come in handy, because everywhere you turn, alien marauders are opening fire. Keep one hand on the keyboard to steer and the other on the mouse to blast the opposing tanks and planes.

★ ★ ★ 1/2



The game is easy to learn and fun to master, and it has an intriguing interactive-adventure element. The animated segments and character development lack the cleverness and depth of CyberFlix's Jump Raven (reviewed in

NEW!

Fractal Design

Dabbler™

FUN! FAST! EASY!

For Aspiring Artists of All Ages!

Get Serious & Enjoy Yourself!

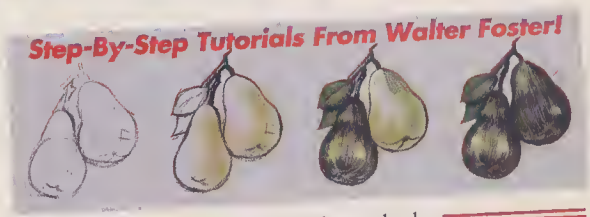
START DABBLING!

Dabbler's innovative new screen interface features artist's cabinet drawers that whoosh open with the click of a mouse or the touch of a drawing tablet stylus. Inside each drawer are all kinds of easy-to-use art tools and special effects.

Learn to Draw & Paint the Easy Way!

- Beginners start with the basics–experts can brush up on technique
- Create *original art* for every kind of creative purpose
- 54 artist's tools–pencils, brushes, airbrush, special effects & more
- Turn snapshots into instant chalk drawings or oil paintings
- *Natural-Media*® realism for Mac®/PowerMac® & Windows™
- Sound-enhanced screen interface makes learning easier
- Upwardly compatible with Fractal Design Painter® & PainterX2™
- Fractal Design's unconditional 30-day, money-back guarantee

©1994 Fractal Design Corporation. All rights reserved. Fractal Design Dabbler and Fractal Design PainterX2 are trademarks of Fractal Design Corporation. Natural-Media and Fractal Design Painter are registered trademarks of Fractal Design Corporation. Walter Foster & the Walter Foster logo are registered trademarks of Walter Foster Publishing. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.



Dabbler features easy-to-follow and completely intuitive learn-to-draw-and-paint tutorials developed in collaboration with Walter Foster Publishing–the leader in art instruction for more than 70 years. Learn at your own pace–as if you had a personal art tutor by your side. Start with simple shapes, then progress into advanced renderings and techniques.

Walter Foster®

You'll Like It!

Dabbler is the friendliest and easiest way to create original art on your computer. Whether you're a beginner or an expert–new Dabbler will give you an artistic advantage!

ONLY **$99** *Order Toll-Free Today!* **800-297-COOL**

Also available at these fine retailers:
CompUSA • Computer City
Egghead Software • Micro Center

FRACTAL DESIGN CORPORATION

1994 EDITORS' CHOICE HOMEPC 100 TOP PRODUCTS

HomePC in November), but you can get to the action fairly quickly if you follow the instructions of your commander, Vladimir Molotov.

You'll need a rest between rounds anyway (fighting aliens is hard work), so you'll probably forgive the intrusion.

$69.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Cyber-Flix, (615) 546-1157.

Can a fire sale *spark a new* Cold War?

The Psychotron
Merit Software
(Mystery, movie)

★ ★ ★

You thought the Cold War was over, didn't you? Not in the new interactive movie, The Psychotron. Here, not only are the Russians back, but they're bringing Communism with them.

It seems that during the height of the Cold War, the Russians created a Psychotronic Generator—a device that helps harness extra-sensory perception and control people's behavior. With the "end" of hostilities, the Russians have sold the machine to the United States government—with devastating results: The Psychotronic Generator has vanished, four people have died and it's up to you to figure out what happened and why.

OK, so the plot stretches credibility, but it's more compelling than many of the stories in the fledgling interactive-movie genre. As is typical in these games, you'll go to different sites to interview characters, and you'll get directions from your boss, C.I.A. Director Darin Bird. The program gives you real people to interact with, and the actors do a credible job. Though the Academy won't be handing out any Oscars for this one, the game is at its best in these scenes, such as the one in which you join some new friends for a do-or-die game of Five-Card Stud.

The disc, which runs under Windows, makes the most of its 60-plus minutes of video. Images take up about a quarter of the screen, and you can view them in full-screen size if you wish (although it will cost you some sharpness). A separate version that provides full-screen video without a loss of quality is also available for players who have a special MPEG (Motion Picture Experts Group, a standard for full-screen, movie-quality video) add-on board such as Sigma Designs' ReelMagic.

The Psychotron's major weakness is its short game time—a few hours, tops—and its complete lack of replay value. There is one solution to the mystery, and once you've found it, there's nothing left to do. Seventy bucks is a lot of money to spend on one afternoon's entertainment.

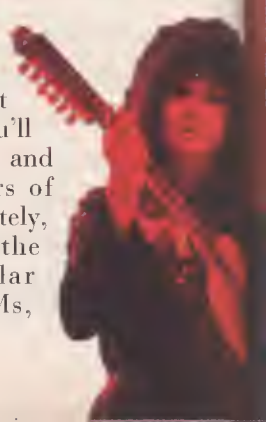
$69.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Merit Software, (800) 238-4277, (214) 385-2353.

Consider a Heart *bypass*

Heart: 20 Years of Rock and Roll
Compton's New Media
(Music, documentary)

★

Even if you love the music of sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson, a.k.a. the rock band Heart, you'll probably want to skip Heart: 20 Years of Rock and Roll. It shows little creativity and won't add much to a fan's knowledge of the band.



The disc has plenty to look at and listen to—you'll find video, lyrics and about two hours of music. Unfortunately, as seems to be the trend in popular music CD-ROMs,

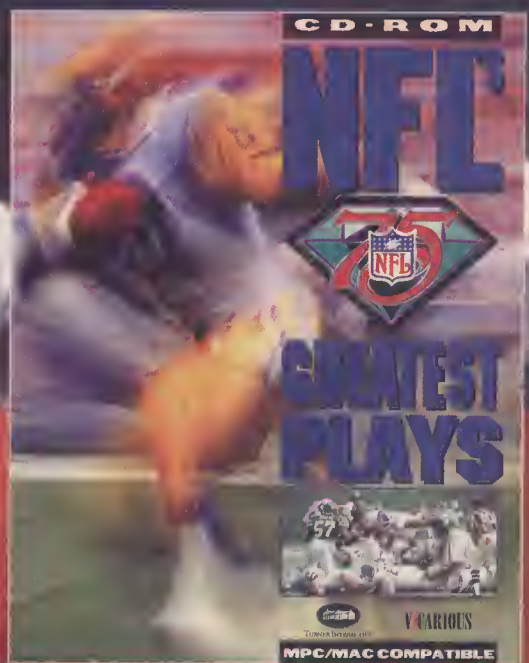
NFL'S GREATEST PLAYS EVER! CATCH THEM ALL ON CD-ROM!

Every football fan's dream– 75 of the greatest plays in NFL history at your command!

SUPER BOWL™ SWEEPSTAKES!

You can win a trip for two to the Super Bowl™!

See details below.



EXCITING FEATURES:

- All the greats are here–from the legendary era of the Packers and Giants through the explosive '93–'94 season!
- Run with it! More action, interactivity, video, stars and rare footage than any title in history!
- Watch three different play angles! Plus player bios, commentary and even a 3-D animated coach's chalkboard!
- Official NFL Licensed Product!

TURNER INTERACTIVE

TURNER HOME ENTERTAINMENT

MAC & MPC all on one disc

No purchase necessary. Open to all residents of the continental United States. Complete entry forms found within *NFL's Greatest Plays* CD-ROM packages, or send a 3 x 5 card with name, address and telephone number to the following address: *NFL's Greatest Plays* CD-ROM Super Bowl Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 76740, Atlanta, GA 30358. All entries must be received on or before January 8, 1995 to be eligible. For a copy of the Official Rules or to receive a list of winners, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope (residents of WA need not include return postage) to: "Rules" or "Winners" *NFL's Greatest Plays* CD-ROM Super Bowl Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 512, Atlanta, GA 30301. Void where prohibited. See Official Rules for complete details.
© 1994 Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

© 1994 Turner Publishing, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
Turner Interactive is a trademark of Turner Home Entertainment, Inc.
© John Biever/NFL Photos

the songs are served up in one-minute sound bites—just enough to give you a taste of more than 100 Heart songs before they fade out.

The second element of this disc is the sisters' story. But for such seemingly hardened rockers, the Wilsons gush just a little too much. "We were given some kind of special gift when Nancy came [into] our family," Ann recalls. Family and friends join in the love fest, too. "I think Heart has one of the greatest vocalists in the world in Ann Wilson," coos songwriter Diane Warren.

Heart: 20 Years of Rock and Roll is incredibly slow to respond to commands and has some flaws when it finally does. For example, a search for "Butterfly" came up empty, even though one of Heart's albums is titled Dog & Butterfly. Worse, your PC needs to be able to run VGA video at 64,000 colors to fully enjoy the disc's graphics.

Take this advice to heart: Even if you worship this band, stick to the music CDs.

$49.95 (DOS CD-ROM) from Compton's New Media, (800) 862-2206, (619) 929-2500.

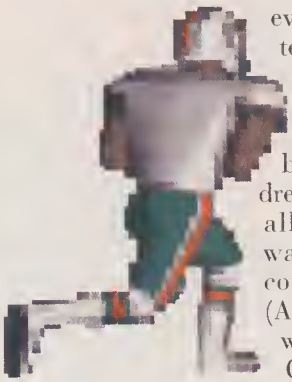
They might be *Giants* (or *Jets* or *Cowboys...*)

Ultimate Coaches Club Football
MicroProse
(Sports simulation)

★ ★ **1/2**

I'm no football fan, but my friends Sal and Gary are. Ultimate Coaches Club Football simultaneously wowed and terrified them. They were awestruck by its complex playing options—from selecting weather and turf to mixing and matching teams and playbooks. Yet they both admitted that it would take "a total football head" to truly enjoy this program.

In MicroProse's officially sanctioned National Football League game, you get to be the coach. You'll use real playbooks, take charge of real players (or at least their names and playing characteristics) and even suit them up in their official team uniforms.



It's your job to draft the best players, trade off the dead weight, then plan your strategy by learning and adapting hundreds of plays. Once you've made all your choices, sit back and watch as your team crushes the competition or gets steamrolled. (And if you win, you don't have to worry about washing the Gatorade out of your hair when your players dump a bucket of the stuff on your head.)

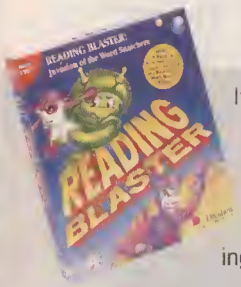
For the most realistic action, you can update all of the players' 1994 stats using a modem and a connection to Prodigy (Jumpword: Fantasy Football) or a bulletin-board service created by Fantasy Sports Properties (800-872-0335). So while the game isn't intended to be a fantasy-league program, it certainly makes it easier to set one up. But if you do, it helps to have a quarterback's salary—Prodigy charges $99.95 for the service and the bulletin-board service costs $79.95, both for a season's worth of statistics.

Although both Sal and Gary said they couldn't imagine getting as deeply involved in *playing* the game as the program seems to require, they came up with some interesting alternative uses for it. The most intriguing of their ideas was to set up the software to simulate a real Sunday or Monday night football game on the NFL's schedule, run the program, watch the game and see how well the computer is able to predict what happens on the gridiron.

$57.95 (DOS CD-ROM) from MicroProse, (800) 879-7529, (410) 771-1151.

HOW DO FUTURE EINSTEINS LEARN TO READ?

From the Makers of the World's Best-Selling Math Program!



It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that learning plus fun equals success. And **Reading Blaster** is the perfect formula. In our exciting new reading adventure game, kids join Blasternaut and friends on five action-packed, intergalactic "reading missions" they'll want to play again and again. And each time they do, their comprehension of over 1,000 new words will become stronger and stronger. Featuring dazzling graphics, sound effects, and all the learning fun that made Math Blaster #1, Reading Blaster is a reading blast your future whiz kid will love!

Available for Windows™ and Windows™ CD-ROM

NEW! Look for Math Blaster® for Sega™ Genesis™ and Super NES® in stores this fall!

Davidson.
Teaching Tools from Teachers

FOR A **FREE** DAVIDSON PREVIEW CD OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

(800) 545-7677 ext. 640. Hurry! Supplies are limited.

(IN SO. CA, CALL (310) 793-0600)

Available at Babbage's, Best Buy, CompUSA, Egghead Software, Electronics Boutique, Elek-Tek, Fry's Electronics, MicroCenter, Software Etc., and other fine retailers. Windows™ is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation.

He's no 20th century *fox*

Inherit the Earth
New World Computing
(Adventure)

★ 1/2

It's not the meek, but the mammals who inherit the Earth in this game. Humans have long since become extinct; foxes, rats, boars and elk now rule the planet.

Rif the fox stands accused of stealing the Orb of Storms, a device that predicts the weather and thus empowers the creature that possesses it. He, Okk the boar and Eeah the elk have only a few days to find it, or Rif will be tossed in jail.

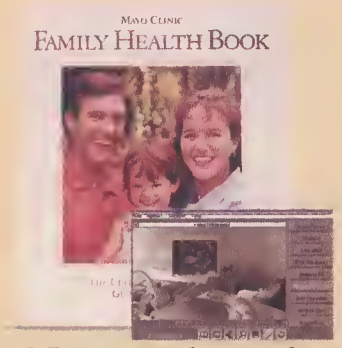
Think of Inherit the Earth as a kinder, gentler adventure game (the manufacturer has labeled it "GA," for General Audiences). There's no violence or bad language and its tame themes make it as appropriate for kids as adults.

But if you buy adventure games for the puzzles, you may be disappointed. There are more than a dozen destinations for you to explore, all set up as mazes. But you won't find much to do in any one place, and no matter where you turn, there are more dead ends than exciting plot twists. The game's graphics have surprisingly low resolution for a CD-ROM, too.

If this is what Earth is going to be like in the oh-so-distant future, you might come away thinking that the animals are welcome to it.

$59.95 (DOS, DOS CD-ROM) from New World Computing, (800) 325-8898, (818) 889-6070. •

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



What can an ultrasound reveal about my baby?

What side effects are possible with my over-the-counter cold medicine?

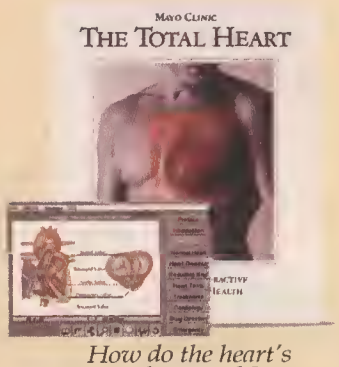
MAYO CLINIC HEALTH LIBRARY

Health Questions. CD-ROM Answers.

Presenting the Mayo Clinic Health Library – four CD-ROM titles packed with important information about your health. These highly interactive CD-ROMs feature exciting video, 3D animations, informative text and expert advice. Best of all, each title is extremely easy to use. So if you've got health questions, go to the one place with the CD-ROM answers – the Mayo Clinic Health Library.

See your favorite software retailer or call (800) 432-1332, Dept. 155.

IVI PUBLISHING



How do the heart's valves work?

What's the best fitness program for me?

© 1994, IVI Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Mayo Clinic is a registered mark of Mayo Foundation.

Fisher-Price CD-ROM software makes your child and your computer fast friends.

Fisher-Price 1-2-3's

Fisher-Price® ABC's. Fisher-Price 1-2-3's. Fisher-Price Sing-Alongs. And Fisher-Price Dream Doll House. That's all it takes to start a great relationship.

Specially developed for Fisher-Price by Davidson & Associates, the leading designer of children's educational software, these interactive first-learning tools introduce your child to a captivating world of music, graphics, magic and adventure. At the very same time, making all the fun a memorable learning experience. All with just a click of the mouse.

Fisher-Price Sing-Alongs

Fisher-Price Dream Doll House

Fisher-Price play-and-learn software. The only thing in the house more child-friendly is you.

Available Winter 94/95 for Windows™ CD-ROM

For a FREE Davidson Preview CD or for more information, call 800-545-7677 ext. 640. (In So. CA call 310-793-0600.) Hurry! Supplies are limited.

Available Winter 94/95 at Babbage's, Best Buy, CompUSA, Egghead Software, Electronics Boutique, Elek-Tek, Fry's Electronics, Micro Center, Software Etc., and other fine retailers. Windows™ is a trademark of the Microsoft Corporation. © 1994 Fisher-Price, Inc. East Aurora, New York 14052. Also available in Canada.

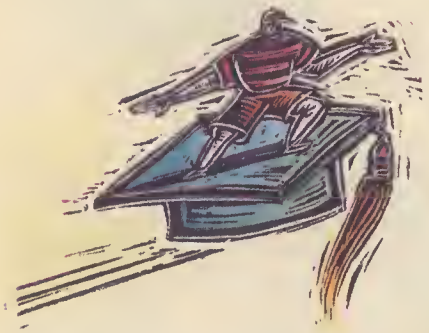
Davidson.

Teaching Tools From Teachers

Five ways So
multimedia kit
your kids'

1. Your kids will get scholarships.

Multimedia kits from Creative Labs include all you need to turn a PC into an outrageous educational system—speakers, a CD-ROM, a Sound Blaster™ sound card, and lots of the hottest software. Your rug rats could become rocket scientists overnight. In Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse,™ you get the most popular educational software. Like *Kid Works 2*, *Stradiwackius*, and *The Cruncher*. Suddenly, math and reading are cooler than Beavis and Butthead.

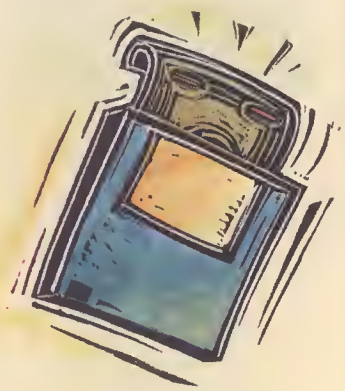


2. You'll become smarter and maybe get a better job.

Getting a Sound Blaster upgrade kit for the kids means you learn along with them. Tackle *Eagle Eye Mysteries* or *Wing Commander*. Browse through the talking *New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia* to sharpen your mind. When the boss overhears you drop a key fact—*boom!*—that corner office is yours.

3. Use financial software to make shrewd investments.

More than just fun and games, Sound Blaster Edutainment CD™ 16 kit includes smart software too. Like *Quicken Deluxe*, the financial software you use to manage spending and analyze holdings. With *Creative VoiceAssist*™ and *Creative Talking Scheduler*™ your computer will obey voice commands or remind you of chores. Like counting the money you've saved.



Sound BLASTER

Of course, all Sound Blaster multimedia kits provide 100% Sound Blaster compatibility, technical

© 1994 Creative Technology Ltd. The Sound Blaster and Creative Logos are registered trademarks and Sound Blaster, Sound Blaster Edutainment CD, Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse.
All other trademarks are the property of their respective holders. U.S. inquiries: Creative Labs 1-800-998-5227.

und Blaster
s help pay for
education.

4. You stay home more often, so you save money.

When multimedia joins the family, nobody leaves the house. Hours are spent with *SeaWolf, Links,* and *3D Dinosaur Adventure.* Instead of going to the movies, you're making movies. Mom's got the mike. Billy has the joy-stick. Dad's playing *Woolly Bully* on the keyboard. You're silly. You're happy. You haven't spent a dime in months.

5. Invest all the money you saved in a T-bill.

With all Creative Labs upgrade kits, you get the best hardware and the coolest software for hundreds less than if purchased separately. Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse gives you the best educational titles. Sound Blaster Edutainment CD™ 16 includes educational software plus hot games like *Rebel Assault*–42 titles in all. Both come with stereo speakers, a double-speed CD-ROM drive, and the Sound Blaster 16-bit sound card. There's even a Sound Blaster Edutainment EZ™ 16 available as a single-slot external drive solution.

Sound Blaster Digital Schoolhouse™
Sound Blaster 16 stereo sound card
Double-speed internal CD-ROM drive
Stereo speakers

Includes these educational titles:
Kid Works 2
Spell It 3
The Cruncher
Stradiwackius
Peter Pan: A Story Painting Adventure
Eagle Eye Mysteries
Gus Goes To CyberTown
The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
Speed
3D Dinosaur Adventure
Plus nine other software titles!

Sound Blaster Edutainment CD™ 16
Sound Blaster 16 stereo sound Card
Double-speed internal CD-ROM drive
Stereo speakers

Includes these popular titles:
Rebel Assault
Links
SSN-21 SeaWolf
Wing Commander
Pagan: Ultima VIII
The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia
3D Dinosaur Adventure
Aldus PhotoStyler SE
Quicken Deluxe CD-ROM
Creative VoiceAssist
Plus 32 other software titles!

lp, and easy installation. So visit your nearest Creative Labs dealer. Or call 1-800-998-5227 Ext. 106.

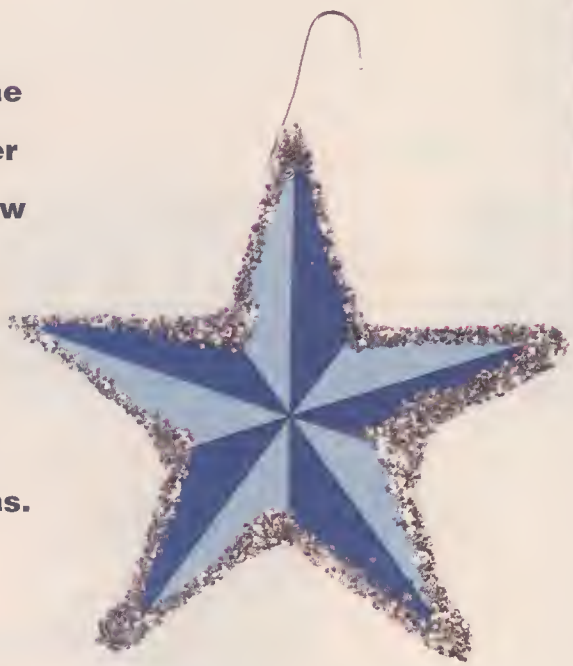
CREATIVE®
CREATIVE LABS, INC
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE

d Blaster Edutainment EZ, Creative VoiceAssist, Creative Talking Scheduler, Multimedia is Creative, and the Sound Blaster Compatibility Logo are trademarks of Creative Technology Ltd.
national inquiries: Creative Technology Ltd., Singapore. TEL: 65-773-0233 FAX: 65-773-0353.

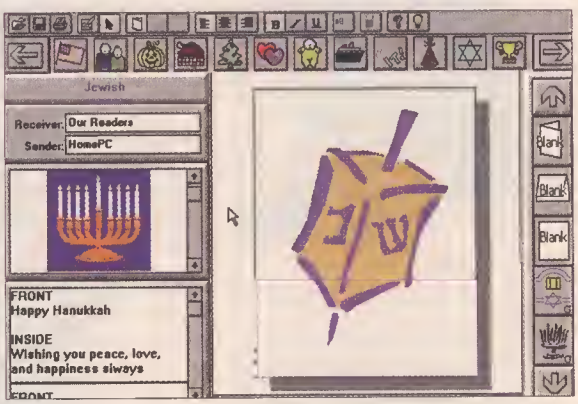
FAMILY projects for the holidays

By **Carolyn Jabs**

The home computer gives new life to your favorite holiday traditions.

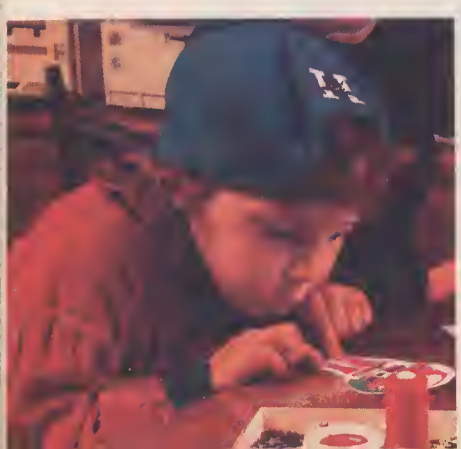


Dreaming of an old-fashioned holiday? You know, one that doesn't revolve around shopping and artificial sentiments, but instead focuses on



sharing special moments with the family. Surprising as it may seem, your home computer can help you put the tradition back into the holidays.

Why trudge from store to store looking for the right greeting cards, decorations and gifts when the computer makes it such fun to create them yourself? It sure beats fighting traffic, harried crowds and irritable sales clerks. And you'll have the opportunity to do something really special for the people on your holiday list. For example, instead of set-

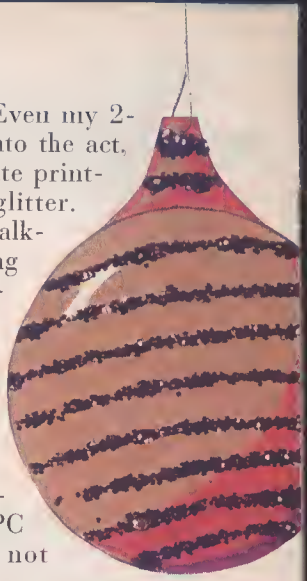


With a little help from their computer and color printer, the Jabs family decked the halls (and the living room and fireplace) with decorations.

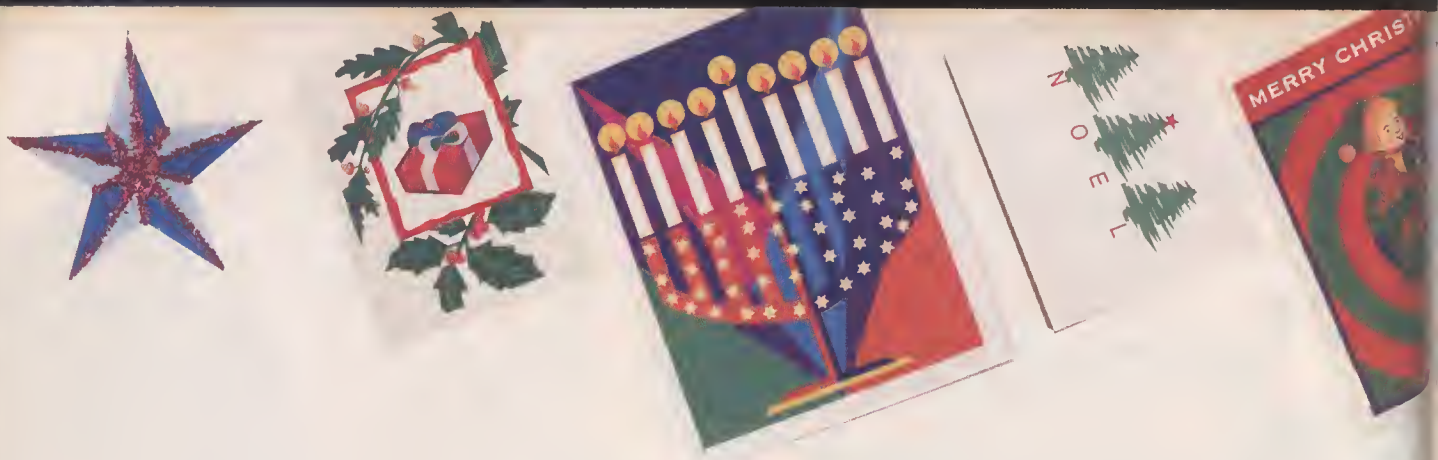
Photographs by Kathleen Martin

tling on impersonal store-bought cards, the computer lets you send a special message that emphasizes your bond with the recipient—perhaps a graphic of a Christmas tree atop a car will make a splash with the neighbor in your car pool or a Hanukkah knock-knock joke will bring a smile to your 6-year-old nephew's face.

Best of all, the computer opens the door to special times with your kids. As my husband, our kids and I prepared for the holidays, my 11-year-old son, Bert, often scornful of homemade gifts, actually suggested we make family calendars for his aunts and uncles. My 6-year-old daughter, Jessie, was delighted to discover she could make tree ornaments with our graphics software. Even my 2-year-old, Zachary, got into the act, helping his sister decorate printouts with sequins and glitter. Spending time together talking, laughing and sharing ideas is more of a celebration than sitting and watching old Christmas specials on TV.



Collaborating with your kids at the computer provides a bonus: Children accustomed to working and playing on the PC may know as much, if not



Software such as Card Shop Plus (below) creates personalized greetings; graphics programs—and some old-fashioned crayons—handle the ornaments.

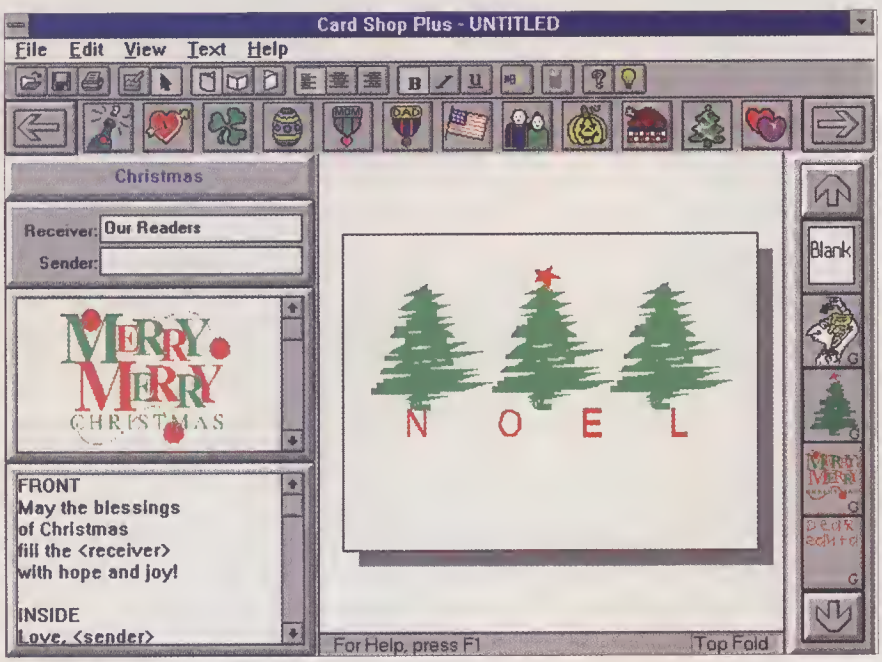
more, than you do about getting the project done. Working together offers your child the rare opportunity to be the "expert." One day, when Bert and I began making a New Year's banner, I wanted to change a red and green border to purple and blue. While I was slowly thumbing through the manual, Bert was two steps ahead of me, saying "Let's try this, Mom." As we sit side-by-side at the computer, we're equals—both of us making suggestions and trying to figure out how to execute them.

"But I'm not very creative!" you protest. Neither am I. Luckily, the most popular graphics programs provide templates and design suggestions for everything from customized greeting cards to personalized place mats. With only a little effort, they can be modified to match your values, interests and favorite colors.

Making holiday cards is one of the easiest projects at the computer. Two all-purpose graphics programs, Print Artist and Print Shop Deluxe, have greeting-card sections that include designs for Christmas and Hanukkah (other graphics programs may have similar sections). Software that focuses exclusively on greeting cards, such as Stationery Store and Card Shop Plus, offer more variety as well as more sophisticated artwork. Although you can simply reproduce any of the cards in these programs, it's more fun to modify them for your own design. For example, you can take a basic card featuring a big Christmas stocking and dress it up with graphics that are meaningful to the recipient—a leaping fish for the family sportsman or assorted vegetables for the gardener.

Personalizing your holiday cards

Even if you decide to keep the graphics intact, you can still personalize the message. For example, one greeting says simply, "Wishing you a Merry Christmas." We're a family of two religious traditions, so we changed it to read, "Wishing you the joy of Christmas, the faith of Hanukkah and the peace that comes from appreciating them both."



The computer is also a big help for getting all those personal greetings in the mail. If you haven't already done so, now's the time to type your mailing list in your word processing program and use its mail-merge function to address labels or envelopes. (For more on how to use mail merge, see "Address for Success" on page 192.)

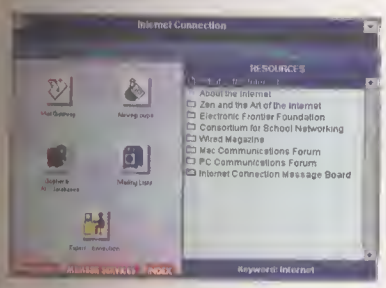
Your graphics program is also perfect for creating holiday party invitations. You won't have to pay for special printing or spend time writing information in store-bought invitations. In the greeting-cards section of Print Artist and Print Shop Deluxe, you'll find ready-made invitations as well as templates you can modify to accommodate your own ideas. Once you have your basic design, you can personalize an invite in minutes. If you're having a potluck

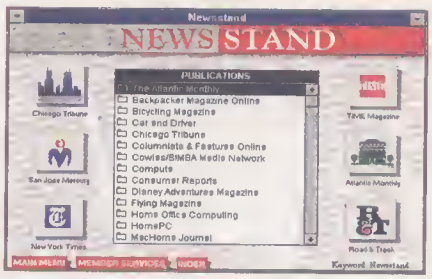
Fasten Your Seatbelt!

America Online's New Software Makes The Information Superhighway A Whole New Ride.

Enjoy the new scenery on America Online's information superhighway. Colorful graphics, exciting new departments, a built-in graphics viewer, and more—make your online trip as visually stimulating as it is informative!

- Our new main menu featuring 14 departments so you find exactly what you're looking for—quickly and easily.
- Each department is indexed to make your trip faster and more efficient.
- A built-in graphics viewer displays compelling images and photos while you download.
- Our exclusive Internet Connection is easy to navigate and there are no surcharges.





Try It Free!

Complete and mail the card below, or fax it to 1-800-827-4595.

Featuring Home PC Online!

Experience it for yourself. We'll give you ten free hours so you can explore all the new services of America Online.

To order your free trial by phone, call 1-800-827-6364, Preferred Customer #10127.

If you're a current member of America Online, your free upgrade kit is already on its way!

AMERICA Online

Yes! I'd like to try America Online — FREE.

Send me the free software and trial membership. I understand there's no risk — if I'm not completely satisfied, I may cancel without further obligation.

NAME

COMPANY/DEPT./APT. NO.

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

( ) HOME PHONE

SELECT DISK TYPE AND SIZE —

Windows*: ❑ 3.5

DOS: ❑ 3.5 ❑ 5.25 ❑ High Density ❑ Low Density

Apple®: ❑ Macintosh®

*To use America Online for Windows, you must have a 386 PC or higher, 4MB of RAM, a VGA monitor (256 color support recommended), a mouse, a modem, and a working copy of Windows 3.1.

Use of America Online requires a major credit card or checking account. Limit one free trial per household. America Online is a registered service mark of America Online, Inc. Other names are service marks or trademarks of their respective owners.

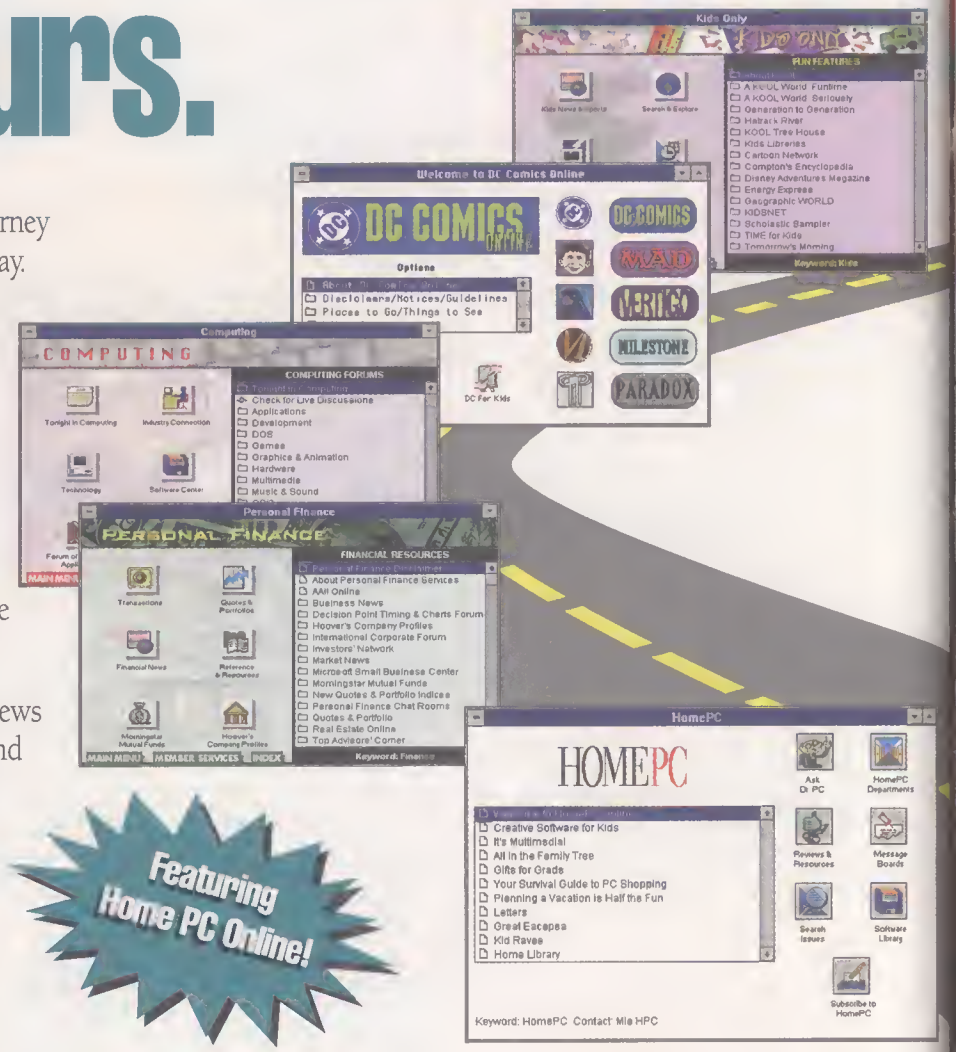
10127

Try America Online For Ten Hours.

Get ready for an enlightening journey on the information superhighway. You'll find areas of interest for cyberspacers, small business owners, parents, news junkies and sports nuts, shoppers, traders, travelers, hobbyists, students...everyone. Plus, enjoy Home PC Online with quick fixes for common computer problems from Dr. PC and over 1,000 software titles for children.

Enjoy unlimited e-mail, leading news publications, personal finance and travel-planning resources, and more than 100,000 software files you can download easily. Have fun, enjoy the ride . . .

. . . and don't forget to fasten your seatbelt!



Featuring Home PC Online!

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 9096 VIENNA, VA

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

AMERICA Online®

8619 Westwood Center Drive
Vienna, VA 22182-9806

Send for your FREE TEN-HOUR trial today!

Mail this card, or fax it to 1-800-827-4595.
To order by phone, call 1-800-827-6364,
Preferred Customer #10127.

AMERICA Online®

How To Give Your Kids A Great Appetite For Learning.

You should see what's cookin' on Main Street. Because the friendliest address in the world to shop for software now has a full plate of educational programs for kids. And you just won't find a sweeter selection.

These products were developed in conjunction with the award-winning Waterford Institute, a non-profit research center that's been a leading name in mulitmedia educational software since 1976.

The Recipe For Reading And Writing Calls For Fun.

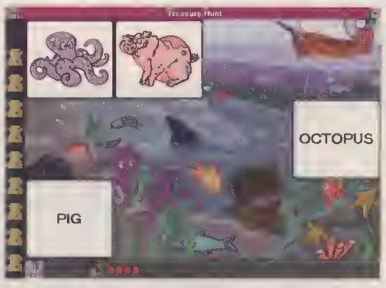
For starters, we suggest an interactive writing program called ***Write with Me***.™ Filled with exciting graphics, Write with Me is a word processor specifically designed to introduce kids to the world of writing. Your kids will have hours of fun learning to write and draw on their own. They can even print out the books and cards they create. And through a talking text feature, Write with Me can read out loud anything your child writes!

Write with Me *uses graphics, text, and sound to bring letters and words to life.*

And check out these prereading programs on the Main Street menu:

In ***Read with Me***™ ***1,*** animated characters speak, to help your kids learn their colors, shapes and ABC's. Colorful graphics and exciting stories keep your kids actively involved every step of the way.

Read with Me™ ***2*** uses captivating games to help kids recognize and form words. A special talking text feature even lets your child hear what any combination of letters sounds like.



In ***Read with Me****, kids get prepared to read by matching words with objects.*

Both Write with Me and Read with Me are engaging multimedia programs that take full advantage of the latest Windows technology.

Here Are Two Ways To Make Math Look Even More Delicious.

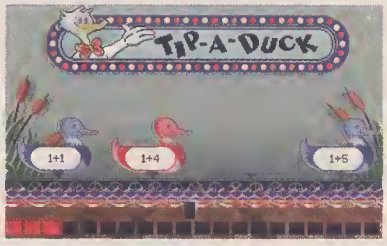
Hungry for a math program that'll entertain your kids? Dig into ***Memphis Math***.™

Solve math problems in ***Memphis Math*** *and you'll get closer and closer to the hidden treasure!*

It's an interactive CD-ROM game that takes your kids to Egypt on a search for the long-lost Equations of the Pyramids. Lush graphics and over 1,800 intriguing math problems add up to a rich, multi-sensory game that kids can play many times over.

Help yourself to ***Mental Math***,™ an award-winning interactive game that'll make your kids want to practice math on their own time.

Even the prices are easy to swallow at $49–59. Plus, every program is backed by WordPerfect® Corporation's unbeatable 90-day money-back guarantee.



Quickly solve the equation and win a prize for toppling the most ducks in ***Mental Math****.*

And right now, if you buy these or any Main Street product, you'll get a FREE KODAK FunTime 35 camera, while supplies last.

SMILE! It's a free camera.

So beat a path to your favorite software store today or call 1-800-526-0490. And take a walk down Main Street, for the tastiest educational programs ever.

WordPerfect®
Main Street.™
Bringing the best home.

WordPerfect is a registered trademark of Novell, Inc. Main Street and Treasure of the Tombs are trademarks of Novell, Inc. Read with Me, Write with Me, Memphis Math and Mental Math are trademarks of the Waterford Institute. All other brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.
© Novell, Inc. 1994. ADZMXXXXXX1O—8/94

supper on New Year's Day, for example, print on each invitation the dish you'd like your guest to bring—"We've all had a craving for your vegetable lasagna!"

Of course, the snazziest-looking projects are printed in color—we used Hewlett-Packard's DeskJet 560 to print our creations. But if Santa hasn't delivered the color printer yet, you still have some appealing alternatives. One is to buy colored paper at the office-supply store. A woodsy green will lend some holiday spirit to your Christmas cards; royal blue will make the invitations to your Hanukkah party look more festive.

One of the holiday cards the family designed said, "Wishing you the joy of Christmas, the faith of Hanukkah and the peace that comes from appreciating them both."

Another alternative if you have a laser printer is to buy greeting cards that have a preprinted full-color design on front and a blank space inside for your personal message. Paper Direct (800-272-7377) and Paper Adventures (800-727-0041) sell holiday cards with matching envelopes. Paper Direct also sells mini-cards with envelopes that can be used for gift enclosures, thank you's, name tags or place cards.

Special stationery

Both companies also sell stationery and envelopes preprinted with holiday designs that you can use with either an ink jet or laser printer. Most feature Christmas themes, although Paper Direct has a few designs for Hanukkah. If you send out an annual letter updating faraway family members and friends about the year's events, these papers allow you to dress up plain black-and-white text with a colorful design. The selections range from sentimental pictures of children in the snow to sophisticated holly-berry borders.

Almost any decoration you would have made with construction paper and markers can now be made on your computer. This opens up lots of possibilities for people like me who were never very good at drawing or hand lettering. You can use children's art programs, such as Kid Pix 2 and Crayola Art Studio, to create simple holiday decorations, especially if you use them with clip art from a holiday graphics package (see the guide to holiday graphics on page 112).

The signs section in Print Artist and Print Shop Deluxe includes a large library of simple illustrations. Your children can make Christmas tree ornaments by selecting favorite pictures—candy canes and reindeer were a big hit at our house—enlarging them so they'll be three to four inches high when printed and coloring them in at the computer. Keep a selection of art supplies on hand so your kids can add three-dimensional effects to the printouts by gluing on sequins, angel hair, cotton, glitter, small beads, pipe cleaners and bits of foil. You might even want to buy a small children's tree and let them decorate it all by themselves with their PC-made creations. Or hang your ornaments on the evergreen roping over the mantel and around the doorways.

No matter how carefully you plan a project on the computer, it invariably takes more than one attempt to get it to print correctly. Instead of throwing away all those colorful "mistakes," cut them into strips and make paper chains to drape on your tree, wrap around a banister or frame a doorway.

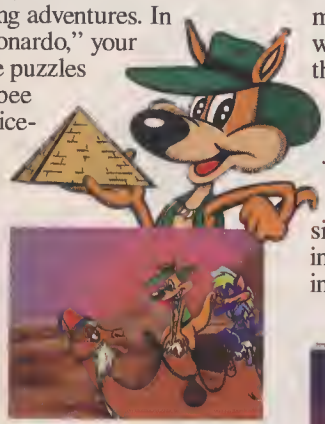
Here are some other ways you can put

Move Your Playroom To Main Street.

There's no better place for kids to play than on WordPerfect® Main Street.™

Because now Main Street has the hottest new kids' adventures in town.

Wallobee Jack,™ the popular rogue from Australia, is back with two all-new captivating adventures. In "The Lost Lionardo," your kids can solve puzzles to help Wallobee Jack find a priceless work of art. And in "The Secret of the Sphinx," they'll have hours of fun matching wits with Cleocatra, Egypt's most notorious feline criminal.



Join Wallobee Jack on a lively adventure through Egypt, in "The Secret of the Sphinx".

The high-quality animation and music in these original, interactive cartoons will make kids want to play them over and over.

Help Wallobee Jack outsmart dangerous criminals in "The Lost Lionardo."

But the joys of Main Street don't end there.

Kap'n Karaoke™ is on every kid's hit parade, because it turns anyone into a singing star. And as a special treat, it includes your favorite holiday tunes, in addition to 15 children's classics.

Like everything on Main Street, Kap'n Karaoke and all the Wallobee Jack cartoon adventures are priced in a very affordable neighborhood $29–49. And they're backed by WordPerfect Corporation's unbeatable 90-day money-back guarantee.

Plus, when you buy these, or any other Main Street product, you'll get a FREE KODAK FunTime 35 camera, while supplies last.

SMILE! It's a free camera.

So get to your favorite software store today or call 1-800-526-0490, and follow the signs to Main Street.

WordPerfect®
Main Street.™
Bringing the best home.

WordPerfect is a registered trademark of Novell, Inc. Main Street and Kap'n Karaoke are trademarks of Novell, Inc. Wallobee Jack, The Secret of the Sphinx, The Lost Lionardo, The Thai Sun Adventure, and the Bingi Burra Stone are trademarks of Megatoon Entertainment Group, Inc. All other brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies. © Novell, Inc. 1994.
ADZMXXXXXX1P—8/94

your graphics program to good effect:

• **Banners.** Go to the banners section and create a "Welcome Santa" sign to put over the fireplace. Make a greeting to hang over the front door. Create a decorative runner for the holiday table.

• **Menu cards.** Add a festive touch to a holiday buffet or banquet by printing the menu in an elegant typeface. You can do this easily in the signs section. For a buffet table, mount the menu on a piece of poster board in forest green or burgundy, then stand it on a small easel, which you can buy in a stationery store. For a sit-down dinner, put a smaller version of the menu at each place setting.

• **Place mats.** Choose a holiday background in the signs section and enlarge or repeat the pattern for your place mats. Even a simple geometric pattern looks Christmasy if it's colored in red and green. Or choose a border and print each person's name inside in large letters. Since 8½ x 11 inches, the size of a standard sheet of paper, is a little small for a place mat, consider mounting each on a larger place mat. You can pick up inexpensive solid-colored place mats in a party-goods store. Then protect the entire mat with a layer of clear adhesive paper, such as Con-Tact.

Start the countdown

As the holidays draw near, you may want to make a countdown calendar for the kids. The concept is based on an Advent Calendar, which traditionally is designed for counting the days from the beginning of December until Christmas. Whichever holiday you celebrate this season, a countdown calendar will help a child contain his or her excitement while waiting for the appointed day to arrive. The idea is simple: The calendar has little numbered doors and a different one is opened each day to reveal a surprise. Commercially available Advent Calendars often contain pictures, candy or even a small ornament to be used on a miniature tree.

Creating a countdown calendar on the PC has several advantages. You can design a calendar that counts down any number of days to anything—Hanukkah, the African-American holiday Kwanza, even a child's birthday that falls the day after Christmas. It's a snap to make a special calendar for each child in

Where to find *special holiday graphics* for your projects

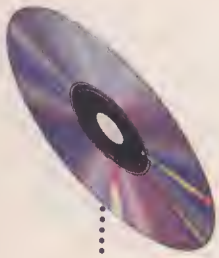
The quickest and easiest way to spruce up your holiday projects is with professional-looking graphics. Here's where you can find them.

• Holiday Fonts contains 35 black-and-white typefaces, including some designed specifically for Christmas, Hanukkah and New Year's. The package also includes black-and-white borders that fit the holiday theme. *$14.95 (Windows) from Expert, (800) 759-2562, (305) 567-9990.*

• You can add on to your Print Artist program with the Graphics Pack 1, which has 300 full-color images, 100 of them appropriate for Christmas, Hanukkah and the winter season. *$19.95 (DOS, Windows) from Maxis, (800) 336-2947, (510) 254-9700.*

• You can enhance your Print Shop Deluxe program with the Print Shop Deluxe Graphics Folios. Each diskette in the series includes more than 100 images: Celebrations has holiday images, as well as images for birthdays, weddings and graduations; Christian Graphics Folio has holiday, religious and Bible images; the Deluxe Holiday Graphics Folio has seasonal and holiday images; and Jewish Graphics Folio has holiday, religious and Bible images. *$19.95 each (DOS, Windows, Macintosh) from Broderbund Software, (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4600.*

• ProArt diskettes are an excellent choice if you're working in black and white; the images—more than 70 per diskette—resemble the art in newspaper ads. Disk No. 8-Religious has Jewish and Christian holiday images; Disk No. 10-Holidays has images for Christmas, New Year's and other holidays throughout the year; and Disks No. 11- and No. 13-Christmas feature non-religious holiday images. *$12.95 each (DOS, Windows) from Print Artist Users Club, (800) 743-1792, (310) 287-2001.* —*C.J.*



Sound BLASTER™

How to make sure your multimedia software talks to your hardware.

Read the fine print on today's game boxes and you'll see the cautionary words *with compatible sound card.* That's because today's hottest games demand the PC sound standard—Sound Blaster.™ Without it, you might get zip. No fantastic effects, no dramatic music, no true-to-life voices. Nothing.

So we've teamed up with the best game designers to ensure 100% Sound Blaster compatibility. Just flip ahead to the following pages. You'll get a good look at some of the richest, liveliest, most-realistic games. And when you see the Sound Blaster logo, you'll know you aren't missing a thing.

CREATIVE
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE

© 1994 Creative Technology Ltd. The Creative Logo and Sound Blaster Logo are registered trademarks and Sound Blaster, Sound Blaster Edutainment CD, Multimedia is Creative, and the Sound Blaster Compatibility Logo are trademarks of Creative Technology Ltd. U.S. inquiries: 1-800-998-5227. International inquiries: Creative Technology Ltd., Singapore, TEL 65-773-0233 FAX 65-773-0353.

your family. And you can use the surprises to reinforce your own holiday tradition. When children open the doors, they can find pictures that symbolize the ideas behind the celebration, bible passages or inspirational quotations, clues about where to find a small treat or anything else you can think of. For step-by-step directions on how to make a countdown calendar, see the box below.

Many families have tried to escape the commercialization of the holidays by giving only homemade presents. Even if you haven't gone that far, your computer can be the source of customized gifts you'll be proud to give and loved ones will be glad to receive. Children, in particular, enjoy creating gifts on the computer because the results look so "professional." Once you start thinking about computer-generated gifts, you're sure to come up with ideas of your own, but here are a few to get you started.

• **Coupons.** One of the best gifts Bert ever gave me was a certificate for "a perfect 12 hours." With Print Artist's Certificate section, all you have to do is dream up the promise—breakfast in bed, five nights of baby-sitting, a

How to make a *countdown calendar* in eight easy steps

Here's how to make a countdown calendar. I used Print Artist to create the one below; you can do the same with almost any graphics program.

1) In Print Artist, go to the signs section, create a document and pick a simple graphic. I decided to use a wreath; a wrapped package is nice, too.

2) Make as many copies of the picture as the number of days you want to count down, and arrange them on the page. To make it easier to space the pictures, choose Insert, click on Background, then click on Grid. You'll see what looks like graph paper on screen. Enlarge or reduce the pictures so they fill the page in a pleasing design.

3) Put a number on each picture.

4) Remove the grid and print the page on the heaviest paper your printer will accept.

5) Use an Exacto knife to cut around the sides and bottom of each picture to make a small flap, or door. Fold the flaps back.

6) Create a new document. Using the same grid, arrange pictures or messages so they're positioned in the same places as the set of wreaths.

7) Remove the grid and print the page.

8) Spread a thin line of glue around the edge of the paper with the pictures. Put the page with the flaps on top and press gently to seal the two pages. Close all the doors and then put a heavy book on top and let it sit until they flatten out, either a few hours or perhaps overnight. —*C.J.*

Kids can spot a phony voice a mile away. And you can test this fact with *Sesame Street:®Numbers.* Children learn pre-math skills with the real voices of Big Bird, Elmo, and Bert & Ernie. And with a Sound Blaster, they all sound just like they do on TV.

He acted with Hepburn. Sang with Sinatra. And now, he wants to work with you.

There are songs and videos from the Sesame Street show, created by Children's Television Workshop. Or talk to the big guy himself through the on-screen telephone. And with Sound Blaster, there's no mistaking that legendary voice.

Sound BLASTER

Working together for sound compatibility.

EA*Kids

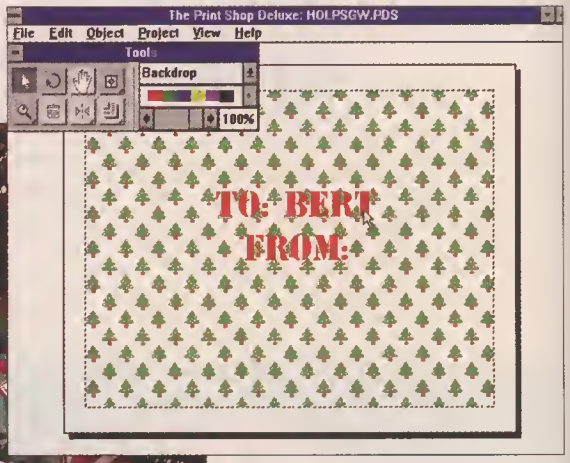
CREATIVE
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE

EA*Kids and the EA*Kids logo are trademarks of, and Electronic Arts is a registered trademark of Electronic Arts. Sesame Street is a registered trademark of Children's Television Workshop.

day of guilt-free golf or whatever. You can also make certificates in the signs section of other graphics programs.

• **Family calendar.** A calendar featuring dates that are important to the person you're giving it to makes a great gift. For example, let's say you want to make a personalized calendar for your brother and his family. Start with the Calendar section in Print Shop Deluxe. Collect the dates of family events—first the obvious ones like birthdays and anniversaries, then unusual ones like the family get-together you want to organize for next summer or the anniversary of the day that your nephew rode the roller-coaster 27 times. Finally, go to the library and look at *Chase's Annual Events*, a day-by-day directory to all sorts of events from celebrity birthdays to unusual commemorations such as Clean Off Your Desk Day (Jan. 11) and Vegetarian Awareness Month (October). Choose the events that will have special meaning to the family members and put all the dates on the calendar along with family jokes, funny stories and inspirational quotations.

With a color ink jet printer, good things wrap around small packages.



• **Letterhead or note cards.** Design stationery in the Letterhead section of Print Artist or Print Shop Deluxe that reflects the recipient's personality, perhaps by using a border in the colors of the person's "aura" or

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the art and graphics programs mentioned in this article.

Card Shop Plus
The Software Toolworks, (800) 234-3088, (415) 883-3000
$39.95 (Windows)

Crayola Art Studio
Micrografx, (800) 676-3110, (214) 234-1769
$60 (Windows, Windows CD-ROM)

Creative Writer
Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080
$49.95 (Windows, Macintosh)

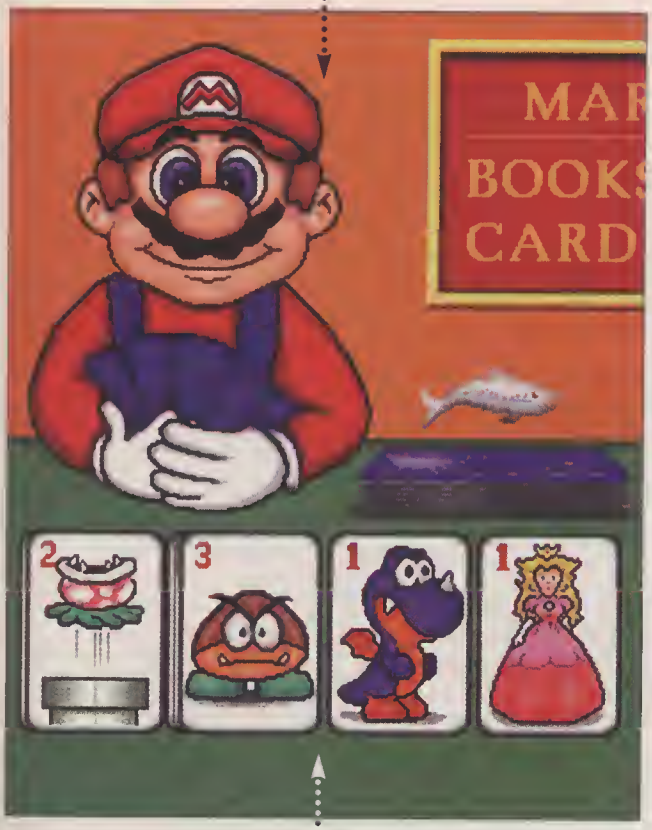
Kid Pix 2
Broderbund Software, (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4600
$39.95 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)

Print Artist
Maxis, (800) 336-2947, (510) 254-9700
$49.95 (Windows, Macintosh)

Print Shop Deluxe
Broderbund Software, (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4600
$49.95 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)

Stationery Store
Davidson & Associates, (800) 545-7677, (310) 793-0600
$49.95 (Windows)
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.



Go Fish. Checkers. Backgammon. Dominoes. You can't lose when Mario is your teacher. He steers you in the right direction with a friendly "Thatsa so nice." In *Mario's Game Gallery,*

Who better to teach your kids about games than a streetwise plumber from Brooklyn?

digitized speech and phonetic mouth movements make Mario come alive. And Sound Blaster makes him sound that way. Together, they're a pair of aces. Mario provides the strategic tips. Sound Blaster delivers the Brooklyn accent.

Sound BLASTER

Working together for sound compatibility.

Interplay

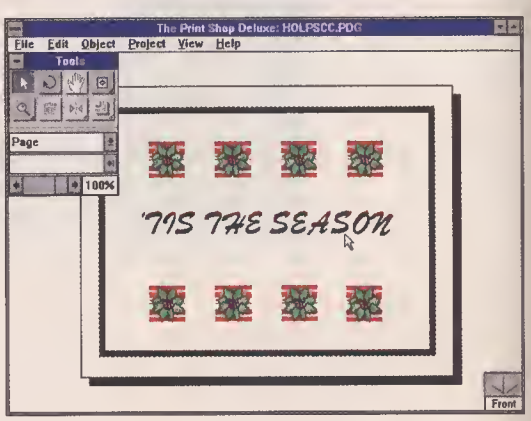
CREATIVE
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE

© 1994 Interplay Productions. Mario and the Princess are trademarks of Nintendo. © 1993 Nintendo.

by creating a one-of-a-kind graphic to reflect a friend's passion for collecting paperweights. Print Artist has a separate Envelope section to match the predesigned letterheads.

• **Personalized books.** Books by budding authors make great gifts for aunts, uncles, grandparents and even teachers. With a storybook program such as Creative Writer, kids can compose and illustrate original stories. Help your child attach a cover for his or her book to poster board. Punch holes in the cover and pages, and then lace the book together. Young children will love receiving a story in which they star, so when your kids go to sleep, borrow their program and write *Bobby's* (or *Sarah's* or *Jonathan's) Great Adventure.*

Your computer can even help you add a finishing touch to handmade gifts you didn't create on the computer. Design a special "Homemade with love by..." label for jars of your very own jam or salsa. (There are templates to make labels in the Business Card section of Print Artist or you can make labels in the signs section of Print Shop Deluxe.) Tuck a printed recipe under the bow on holiday baked goods. Attach a card with care instructions to a handknit sweater.



Whether your gifts are homemade or storebought, think about the computer when it's time to wrap and tag your presents. In the signs section of Print Artist and Print Shop Deluxe, you'll find backgrounds that can be

Even if a child is a little too young to join in all the fun, there's something in the computer's bag of tricks for the whole family to enjoy.

Your clues are hidden in the whispers of floating apparitions. Eerie piano music could be a sign of danger. Warnings come to you through strange murmurs. So, if you want to unravel Old Man Stauf's bizarre secrets, keep your eyes peeled, your

One by one the guests arrive. Then the party really starts howling.

nerves steady, and your ears open. And take this hint—make sure you have a Sound Blaster sound card. Every bone-chilling shriek, hair-raising scream, and breathless gasp in *The 7th Guest*™ seems terrifyingly real when played on a Sound Blaster. Forget about getting out alive without one.

Sound BLASTER®

Working together for sound compatibility.

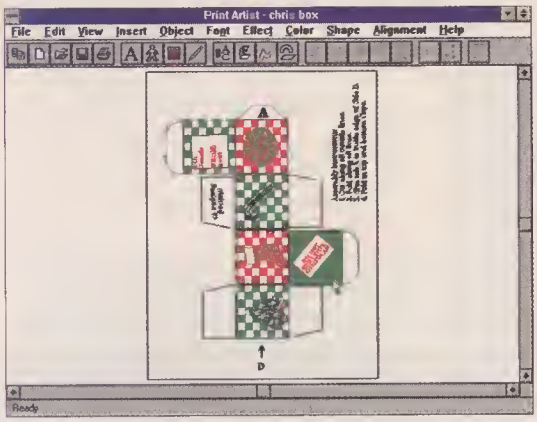
Virgin INTERACTIVE entertainment

TRILOBYTE

CREATIVE
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE™

The 7th Guest and Interactive Drama are trademarks of Virgin Games, Inc. Virgin is a registered trademark of Virgin Enterprises Ltd. © 1992 Virgin Games, Inc., and Trilobyte, Inc. All rights reserved.

used to make marvelous gift wrap. While printing wrapping paper on the computer isn't cost effective for big presents, there may be times when small packages cry out for special wrappings. For instance, if you're giving someone a tiny silver dreidel for Hanukkah, you could put it in a small box and wrap it in white paper that says, in silver and blue letters, "Good things come in small packages." Or, if you celebrate Kwanza and have a hard time finding appropriate gift wrap, you could create your own special wrappings for small packages by using geometric patterns colored in the traditional red, green and black.



A gift in a decorative box can raise a smile even before it's opened.

In the signs section of Print Artist, click on Cut and Fold and you'll find templates for small boxes. Each panel of the box can be decorated with holiday pictures, special messages or even hints about what's inside, such as "Think Snow!" for the lift ticket your favorite skier craves. After decorating the box, print it out—preferably on card stock—fold along the lines and tape as necessary.

There are several good reasons to make your own gift tags on the computer. First, they're less expensive than anything you'd buy. Second, you can create tags that express your point of view about the holidays, whether that's an overworked reindeer or a serene angel. Third, you can avoid writer's cramp by "signing" an entire batch of tags at once. A great place to design gift tags is in the Business Card section of Print Artist. You can choose a blank business card and design your own gift tag, or click on Personal and you'll find a tag that's already been designed.

If you plan ahead, your computer can help you save time and money, two resources that are always in short supply during the holidays. Even more important, it can help you and your family recapture the sense of togetherness and shared creativity that make the holidays so special. •

ONE WRONG TURN AND YOU COULD BE LUNCH.

CD-ROM Windows™

Introducing ANNATOMMY – an incredible CD-ROM learning adventure that teaches your kids all about the human body as they navigate through it. Part of the MAYO CLINIC LEARNING SERIES. See your favorite software retailer or call (800) 432-1332, Dept. 169.

© 1994. IVI Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Mayo Clinic Learning Series is a registered mark of Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. Windows is a registered mark of Microsoft Corporation.

IVI PUBLISHING

Armored warriors ride the wings of flying dragons. Trolls devise a surprise attack. To survive, you'll need to stay alert. And have a Sound Blaster sound card. In *Dragon Lore*, every nuance of battle comes

Between the roaring dragon and the screeching trolls, you can hardly hear yourself think.

to life with synchronized speech and sound effects. Bones crumble beneath your broadsword. A flailing mace rips through chainmail. And you hear it all with Sound Blaster. Just think of it as your most important weapon.

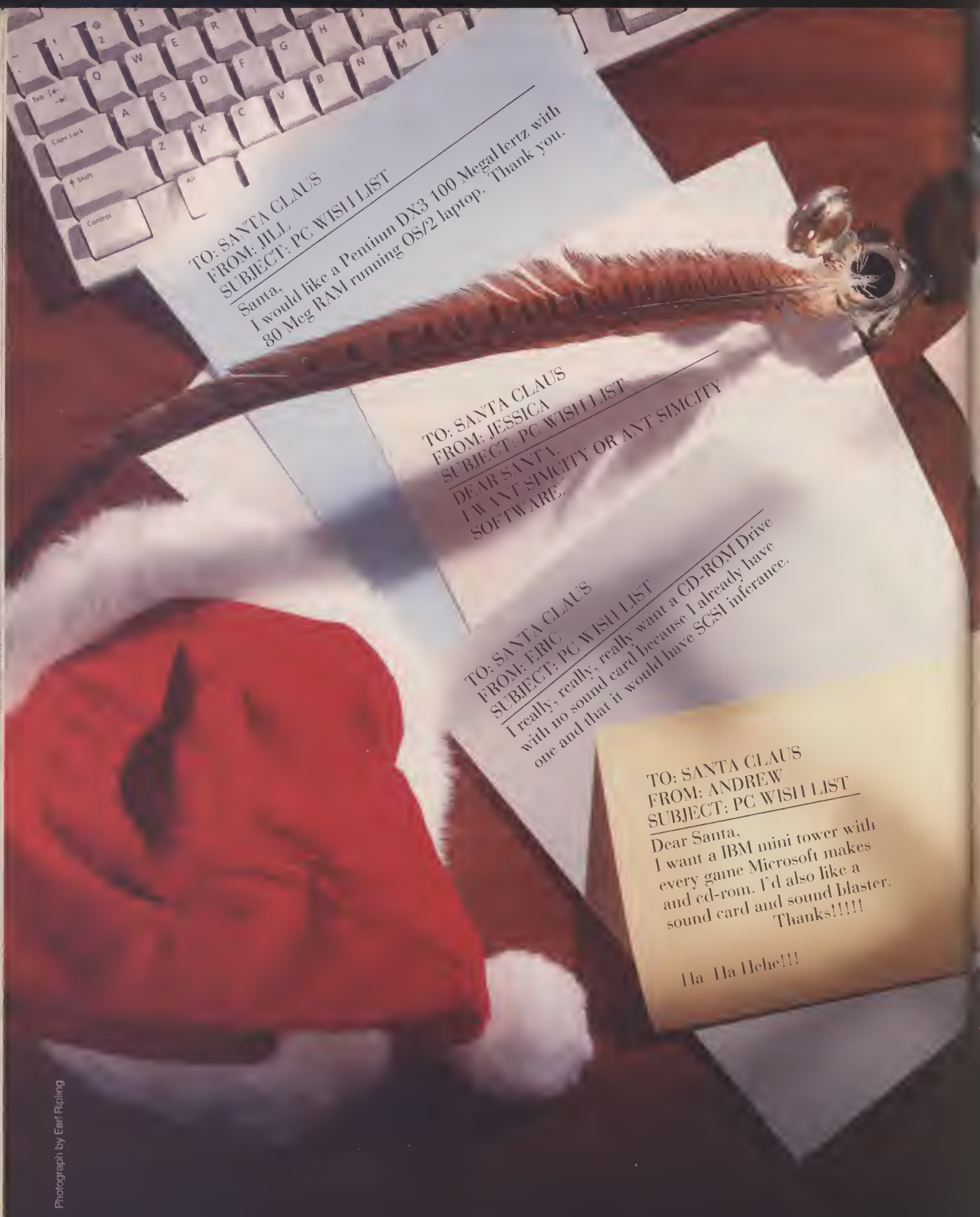
Sound BLASTER

Working together for sound compatibility.

MINDSCAPE
formerly
THE SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS

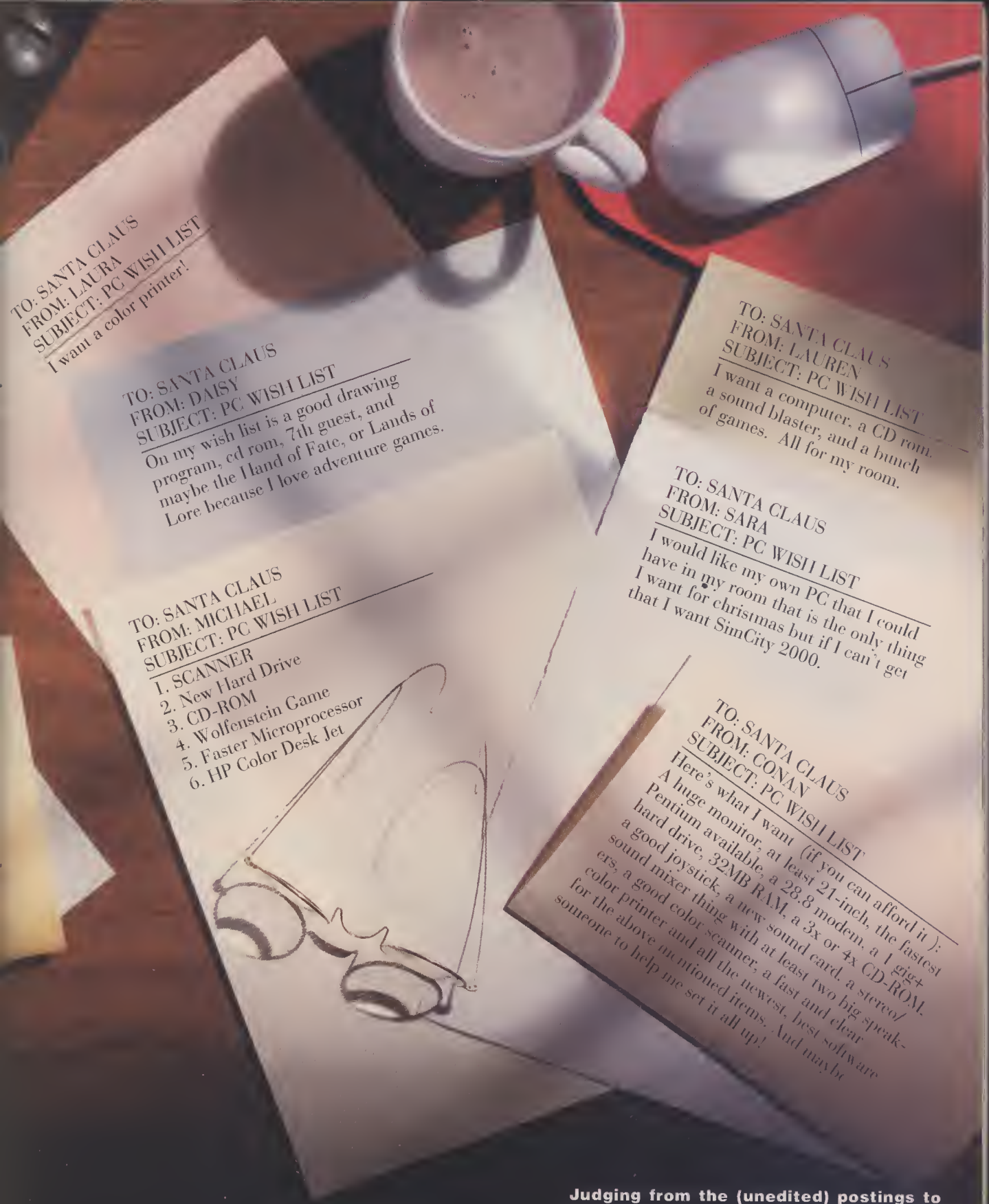
CREATIVE
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE

© 1994 Cryo Interactive Entertainment. © 1994 The Software Toolworks, Inc. All rights reserved.



Photograph by Earl Ripling

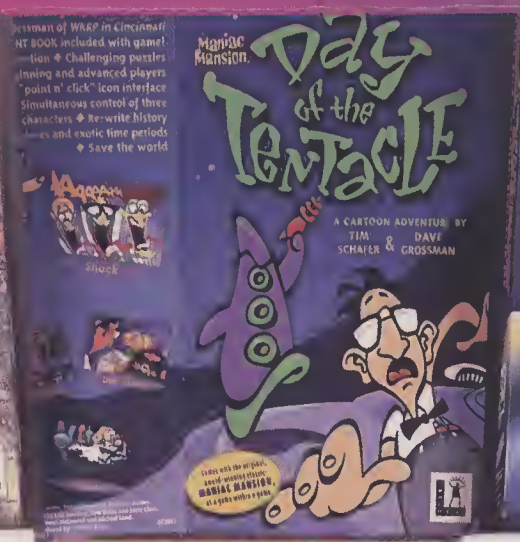
letters to santa (p

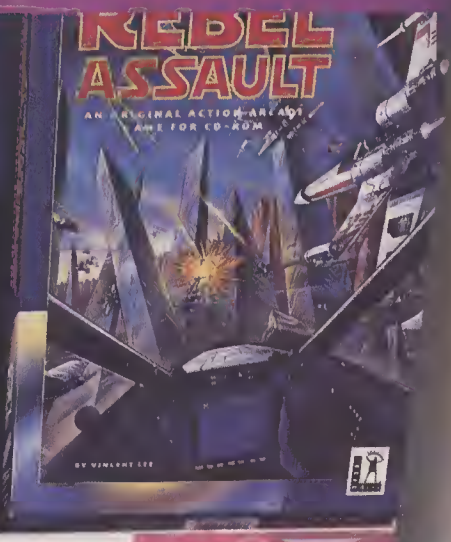


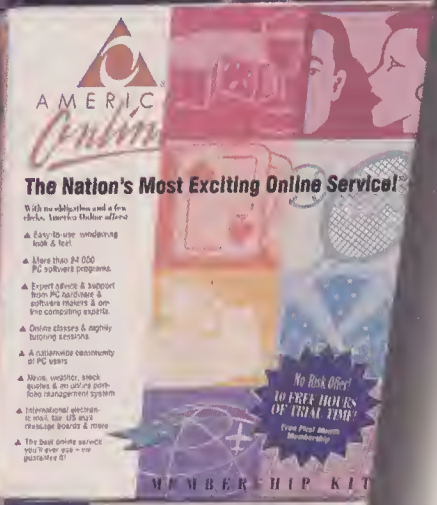
c's, cd's...)

Judging from the (unedited) postings to The Club, a bulletin board on Prodigy for preteens, demand for Pentiums, CD-ROMs and modems may be outracing requests for 21-speed bikes. We hope Santa can deliver...do reindeer fly through cyberspace?

MEET OUR NEWEST







BUNDLE OF JOY

Meet the newest addition to Micron's award-winning line of PC's. The ***Home MPC***: a powerful multimedia system bundled with great software for today's home enjoyment.

Parents. Learning is more fun than ever with ***Encarta®94'***, Microsoft's interactive multimedia encyclopedia. Even adults get their homework done easier with ***Microsoft Works*** and ***Quicken® Deluxe Edition*** on CD, a built-in fax modem and trial subscriptions to ***CompuServe, Prodigy*** and ***America OnLine***.

Children and adults of all ages will thrill to the latest CD games from LucasArts, including ***Rebel Assault, Day of the Tentacle,*** and ***Indiana Jones and the Fate of Atlantis.***

MICRON'S AWARD-WINNING FAMILY

433 HOME MPC

- Intel™ 486SX 33MHz processor
- Pentium™ technalagy ready (ZIF)
- 4MB RAM (expandable ta 48MB)
- 210MB 14ms IDE hard drive
- 2X CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound card, jaystick & speakers
- 9600/2400 Fax/ Modem & WinFax Lite
- Lacal bus graphics (1MB)
- 14" Micran 14FG, 1024NI, .28mm
- Law profile desktap case
- Micrasaft® Mouse, 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS® & Windows® far Warkgroups
- MS Works® Multimedia CD*
- Microsoft Encarta® 94' CD
- Quicken® CD Deluxe Editian
- On-line trial services: Campuserve, Prodigy and America On-Line
- 3 LucasArts CD games: Rebel Assault Indiana Jones & Day af the Tentacle

$1,399

466 HOME MPC

- Intel 486DX2 66MHz processor
- Pentium technology ready (ZIF)
- 8MB RAM, 128K cache
- 420MB 14ms IDE hard drive
- 2X CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound card, joystick & speakers
- 9600/2400 Fax/ Modem & WinFax Lite
- Lacal bus graphics (1MB)
- 14" Micran 14FG, 1024NI, .28mm
- Low profile desktap case
- Micrasoft Mouse, 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS & Windows far Warkgroups
- MS Works® Multimedia CD*
- Micrasaft Encarta® 94' CD
- Quicken® CD Deluxe Editian
- On-line trial services: Compuserve, Prodigy and America On-Line
- 3 LucasArts CD games: Rebel Assault Indiana Jones & Day af the Tentacle

$1,799

P90 HOME MPC

- Intel Pentium 90MHz processor
- 8MB RAM, 256K write-back cache
- 527MB 12ms IDE hard drive (PCI)
- 2X CD-ROM drive, 3.5" floppy drive
- 16-bit stereo sound card, jaystick & speakers
- 14.4 Fax/ Madem & WinFax Lite
- PCI 64-bit graphics acceleratar (2MB)
- 14" Micran 14FG, 1024NI, .28mm
- "Taal-free" desktap ar mini-tawer
- Microsaft Mouse, 101-key keyboard
- MS-DOS & Windows far Warkgroups
- Micrasaft Works Multimedia CD*
- Micrasaft Encarta® CD
- Quicken® CD Deluxe Edition
- On-line trial services: Campuserve, Pradigy and America On-Line
- 3 LucasArts CD games: Rebel Assault Indiana Jones & Day of the Tentacle

$2,499

July, 1994 — June 28, 1994 POWERSTATION — April 26, 1994 MAGNUM — January 26, 1993 MAGNUM — June 27, 1994 POWERSTATION — June 1994 MAGNUM — May 1994 POWERSTATION — March 1994 MAGNUM — September 1993 MAGNUM — December 1993 — December 1993 — May 1994 POWERSTATION

*Microsoft Works Multimedia and Office documentation on-line. Hard copy available for additional charge.

- NEXT DAY SHIPPING ON SELECTED SYSTEMS
- 30 DAY MONEY BACK GUARANTEE
- ONE YEAR EXPRESS PARTS REPLACEMENT
- LIFETIME TOLL-FREE TECHNICAL SUPPORT

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

intel inside

MICRON COMPUTER, INC.

800-400-6576

MON-FRI 7AM - 8PM, SAT 8AM - 5PM(MT) • 900 E. Karcher Road • Nampa, Idaho 83687 • (208) 463-3434 • FAX (208) 463-3424 • Purchase Order FAX (208) 465-8992

©1994 Micron Computer, Inc. All rights reserved. All prices and specifications subject to change without notice. Micron Computer, Inc cannot be responsible for omissions, errors in typography or photography. Intel, Intel Inside, Pentium and Overdrive are registered trademarks of the Intel Corporation Microsoft is a registered trademark and Windows, Windows NT and the Windows logo are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. The Energy Star emblem does not represent EPA endorsement of any product or service. All other company trademarks are trade names of each respective company. Prices do not include shipping and handling. 30 day money back guarantee does not include return freight or shipping and handling charges, applies only to Micron brand products, and begins from date of shipment. All returns require RMA numbers and must be shipped in the original condition prepaid and insured. Lease prices based on 36-month lease

They say you create

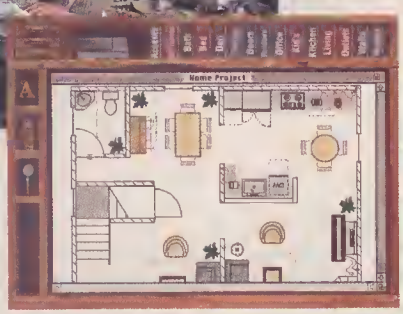
Now let Aldus® Designer

HOME IMPROVEMENT

New from Aldus:

- Aldus Home Designer™
- Aldus Interior Designer™
- Aldus Landscape Designer™

Introducing three smart new software tools created to help you build your own little slice of paradise. Or remodel the kitchen, add a room to your home or landscape the back yard.



Easily plan your new home or remodel right down to the last detail. Sample plans are provided to jump-start ideas and help turn your plans into reality.

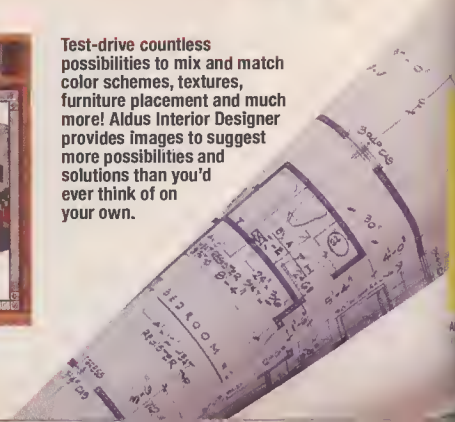
Ridiculously easy to use

Aldus Home Designer, Aldus Interior Designer and Aldus Landscape Designer make it ridiculously easy for you to visualize the perfect design for all of your home-improvement projects.

You'll find a bookshelf full of image catalogs you can browse through for ideas for walls, windows, doors, furniture, appliances, floor coverings, shrubs, trees, bedding plants and more – the list goes on and on. When you find an image you like, simply drag it from the catalog and drop it into your plan. Bingo!

INTERIOR DESIGN

Test-drive countless possibilities to mix and match color schemes, textures, furniture placement and much more! Aldus Interior Designer provides images to suggest more possibilities and solutions than you'd ever think of on your own.



your own reality.

help you plan it!

Realistic images for realistic plans

These are realistic plans you can work from. The images have been reviewed by a licensed architect, landscape architect or interior designer to make sure they conform to industry-standard requirements. The scale is consistent – 1/4 inch per foot – and Aldus Designer gives you the option of automatically attaching accurate dimension lines.

Each program also provides several sample plans you can use as templates. There's no faster, easier way to do-it-yourself for every home-improvement project, no matter how big or small!

See your favorite Aldus dealer, or call:
1-800-888-6293
today to order.

Available on Windows and Macintosh just $49.
Get all three programs on CD-ROM for just $79.

Turn your yard into an oasis with trees, shrubs and groundcover, play equipment, patio furniture, and lots more. View landscapes by different seasons and growth stages.

ALDUS

Hurry to get 3 programs for the price of 2!

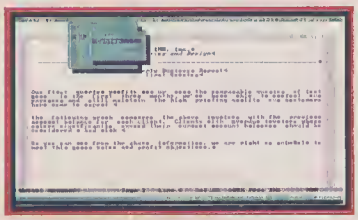
Special, limited-time offer: Buy two Aldus Designer packages today, and get the third one absolutely FREE!

...are registered trademarks, and Aldus Home Designer, Aldus Interior Designer and Aldus Landscape Designer are trademarks of Aldus Corporation, a subsidiary of Adobe Systems, Inc. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc. Windows is a ...Corporation. Other product and corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks of other companies, and are used only for explanation and to the owners' benefit, without intent to infringe.

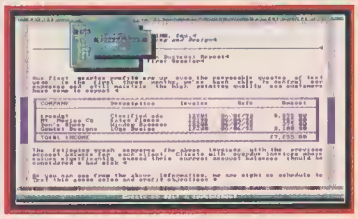
0128

CLICK, CLICK, DONE!

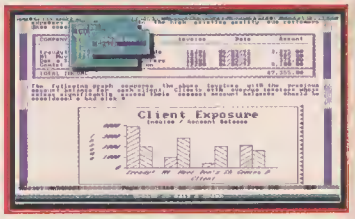
using Ability™



Open Word Processing and create a document.



Click! Put in a spreadsheet.



Click! Add a graph...

...and you're done! It's easier than 1,2,3!

Holiday shopping made easy!

Simply Call

1-800-946-4277

(WIN4APS)

..and you're done!

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER

Limited time offer!

$79.95

Offer ends January 8, 1995

30 Day Money Back Guarantee

The fully integrated software that's **Easy, Fast & Powerful!**

APS (America) Ltd. •6816 Morrison Blvd., Suite 200 • Charlotte, NC 28211

System Requirements: DOS 3.1 or higher; 640Kb/2Mbfree HD space

Trying to find a present for the kids that's both fun and educational? Tired of buying ties for Gramps every year? Stumped about what to give your best friend? Don't wrack your brain any longer. The

following pages contain 30 computer-related gifts guaranteed to excite and delight someone on your holiday list. Better yet, you should be able to find each of the items highlighted here on sale for less than $100. And if you see a gift or two *you* want to receive? It's never too late to drop a hint...

by jerry lazar

Illustrations by Linda Solovic

great gifts under $100

4 Paws of Crab

Gastronomic adventurers who like to Thai one on will crave this multimedia cookbook. The CD-ROM includes 45 recipes from Thailand, complete with videos showing you how to prepare the zesty dishes. As you explore the Thai cuisine, you'll also gain insight into the country's history and culture. *$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Live Oak Multimedia, (510) 654-7480.*

The Face of Life

This collection compiles all 1,800 covers of *Life* magazine from 1936 to 1972 on one CD-ROM, as well as more than 2,000 photos, authentic news-reel footage and some of the greatest music from each era. It's a perfect present for nostalgia buffs. *$29.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Creative Multimedia, (800) 262-7668, (503) 241-4351.*

A mix of mouse pads

Kids and adults alike will enjoy letting their mice frolic with one of the 10 washable pads in the Animal Pads menagerie (left). *($10 from ComputerFun, 800-521-8484, 619-271-9090.)* **Slip a favorite photo or two under the clear plastic surface of the Picture Pad (right) before gift-wrapping it.** *($8 from Silicon Sports, 800-243-2972, 415-327-7900.)* **The colorful Puzzle Mouse Pad and Puzzle Wrist Pad (below left) hook together like a jigsaw.** *($12.50 each from Silicon Sports, 800-243-2972, 415-327-7900.)*

KidBoard

Spread holiday cheer all year 'round by giving a youngster just learning to use a PC this smiling keyboard. The keys have icons as well as letters, and the keyboard comes with three simple but enjoyable games designed to teach kids letters and typing. *$99 from KidBoard, (800) 343-9066, (612) 926-7995.*

Star Trek: The Next Generation Interactive Technical Manual

Any Trekker will want to beam this CD-ROM on board. The voice of the *Enterprise*'s computer, Majel Barrett, presents the blueprints and history of the USS Enterprise, and Commander Riker conducts a guided tour of the starship. *$59 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Simon & Schuster Interactive, (800) 983-5333, (212) 698-7000.*

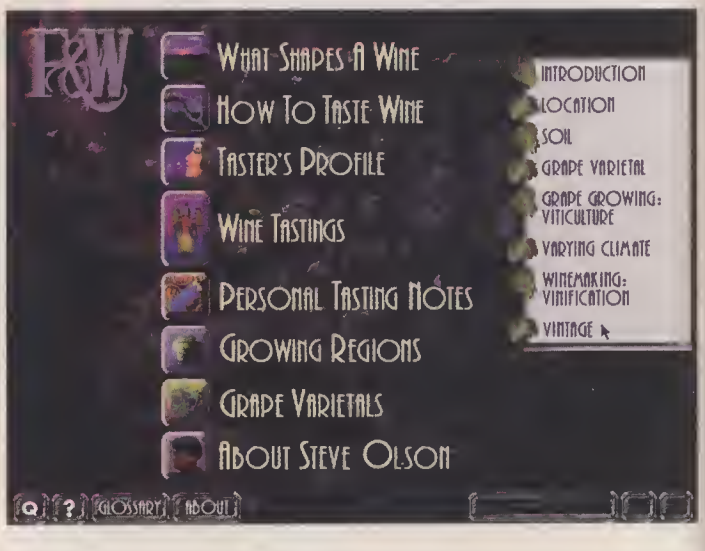
DOOM II: Hell on Earth

There are guilty pleasures aplenty in the sequel to Doom, the wildly successful arcade-style PC game. This shoot-'em-up to end all shoot-'em-ups has players wandering around a demolished city, blowing up zombies and other suitably ugly things. Parental guidance suggested. *$45 (DOS) from id Software, (800) 434-2637, (214) 613-3589.*

great gifts under $100

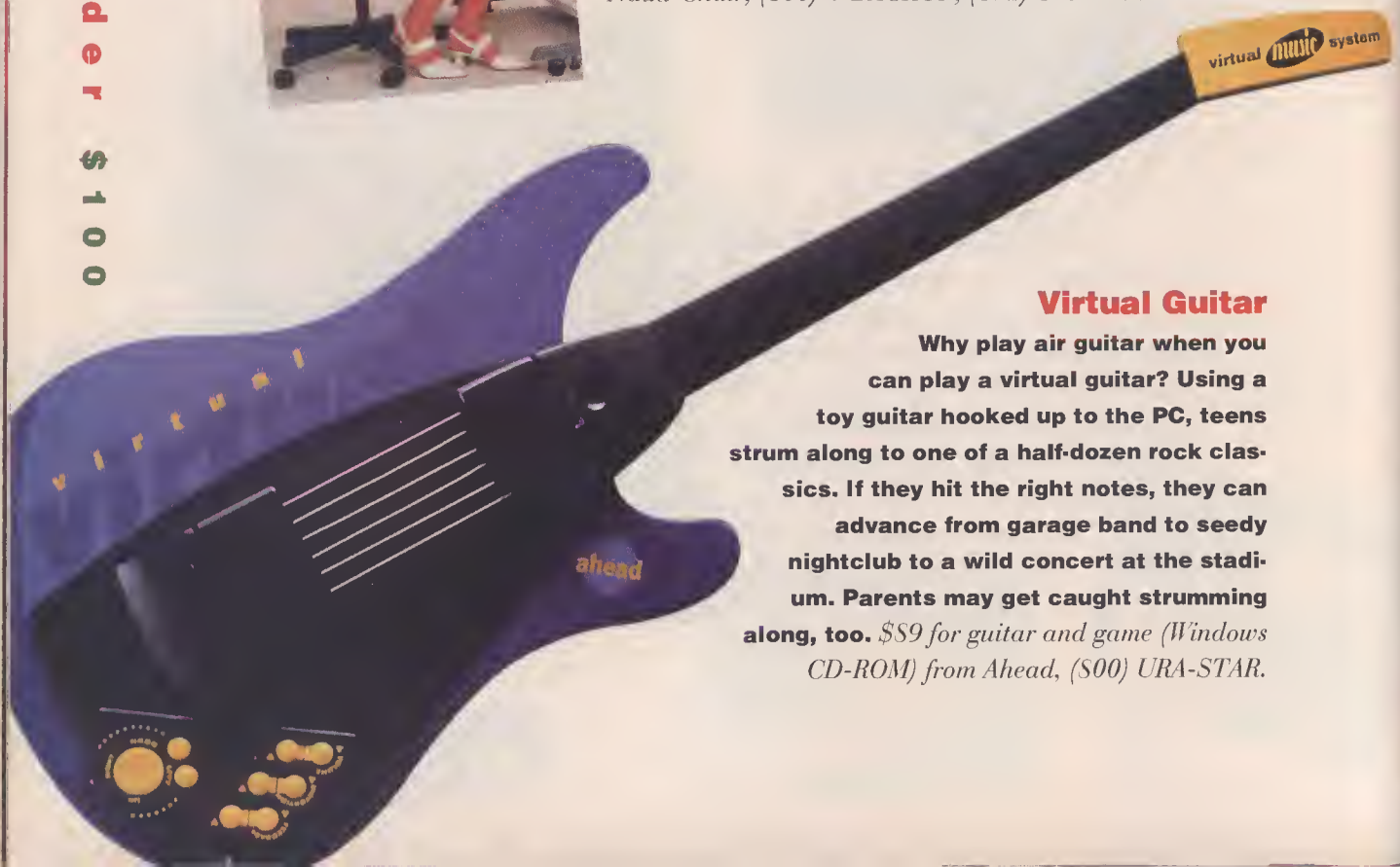
Food & Wine's Wine Tasting

Invited to dinner? Instead of bringing a bottle of wine, surprise your host with this CD-ROM. It includes video clips featuring a noted wine expert, tips on how to judge a wine and recommendations based on your taste in food. *$45 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Times Mirror Multimedia, (800) 747-1787, (201) 307-8866.*



Back-Up

OK, it looks silly, but anyone who suffers from back pain may never take it off. This nylon gizmo with a hard square patch in the back wraps around the waist and hooks together right below the knees. It painlessly forces you to sit up straight at the computer, relieving pressure on the lower back. And the snickers? You'll have the last laugh when you're pain-free. *$49.95 from Nada-Chair, (800) 7-BACKUP, (612) 623-4436.*

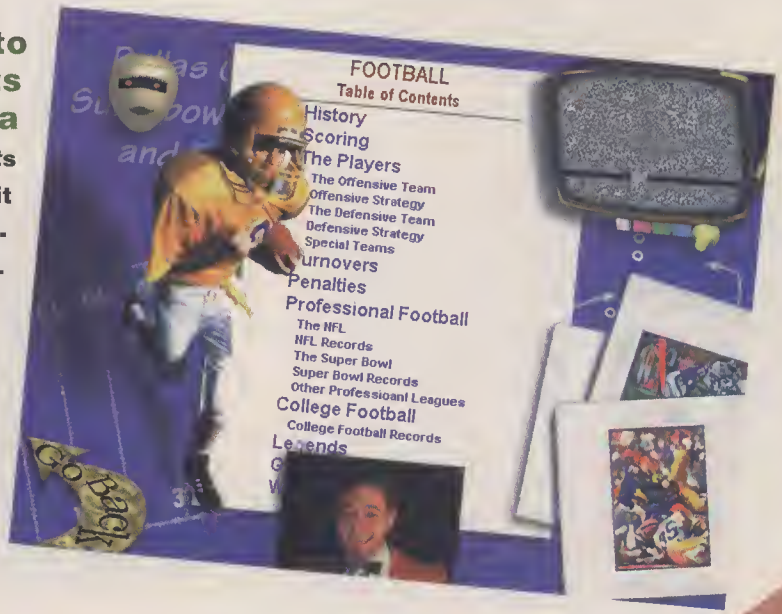


Virtual Guitar

Why play air guitar when you can play a virtual guitar? Using a toy guitar hooked up to the PC, teens strum along to one of a half-dozen rock classics. If they hit the right notes, they can advance from garage band to seedy nightclub to a wild concert at the stadium. Parents may get caught strumming along, too. *$89 for guitar and game (Windows CD-ROM) from Ahead, (800) URA-STAR.*

Everything You Want to Know About Sports Encyclopedia

The title of this CD-ROM from *Sports Illustrated for Kids* just about tells it all. The multimedia package features the big four—baseball, basketball, football and hockey—as well as information on everything from archery to windsurfing. *Ages 8 to 14. $29.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Creative Multimedia, (800) 262-7668, (503) 241-4351.*



MicroSqueez

What's smaller than a tennis ball, has the consistency of a beanbag and packs a lot of power? It's MicroSqueez, and it's great for relieving tension or for fiddling with when you're on the phone. Squeezing it can also ease tired muscles in your fingers and wrists. The balls, which come in a variety of colors, are often spotted in the hands of the *HomePC* staff, especially when deadlines roll around. *$6 from Great Bear Technology, (800) 795-4325, (510) 631-1600.*

Second Nature Software

This is a gift that gives twice. Pick from one of more than 40 different collections, and turn your PC into a gallery of impressionist art, wildlife photos or views of outer space. And all after-tax profits go to nonprofit organizations. *$11 for 22 image collections, $20 for 40 image collections (Windows) from Second Nature Software, (800) 782-7000, (503) 221-1460.*

Seinfeld Screen Saver and Planner

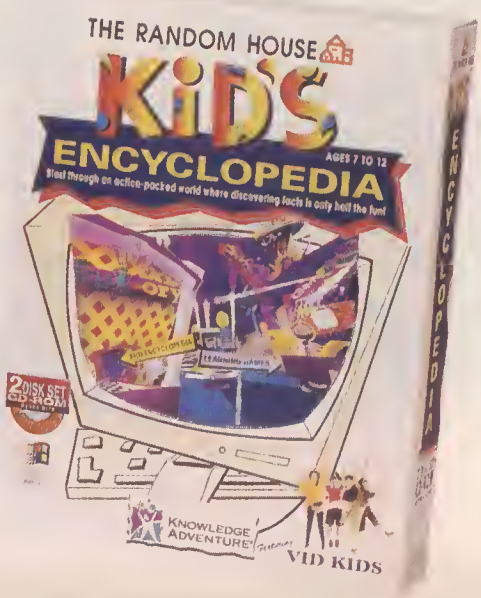
Did you ever notice how people like screen savers and calendars based on their favorite TV shows? The comedy and madness of *Seinfeld* comes to your PC with more than 100 screen-saver photos and over an hour of video clips from the show—a different clip for every day of the year. *$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Time Warner Interactive, (800) 482-3766, (818) 955-9999.*

The Playboy Interviews: Three Decades

***Playboy* has always been more than just a girlie magazine. Collected here are 352 of its renowned interviews with some of the giants in entertainment and government, plus more than 1,000 photos. John Lennon talks about parenthood in one of 25 audio excerpts from the interviews.**
$40 (Windows CD-ROM) from IBM Multimedia Publishing Studio, (800) 898-8842, (615) 793-5090.

The Random House Kid's Encyclopedia

Live-action video guides, movie and animation clips, and sound and music help teach early learners about aardvarks, zoos and everything in between. Games and puzzles keep kids interested but, more important, the CD-ROM instills research techniques that will prove invaluable.
Ages 7 to 12. $47.50 (Windows CD-ROM) from Knowledge Adventure, (800) 542-4240, (818) 542-4200.



Astonishing performance. Anywhere in the universe.

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

Want to examine the rings of Saturn at close range? Or defend the Earth from its galactic rivals? With a PC based on the Pentium™ processor, you can. The fact is, all PC software runs better on a Pentium processor-based PC. But the more incredible the software, the more it demands Pentium processor performance. A PC based on the Pentium processor is also a good investment, since it will still have plenty of horsepower to run tomorrow's applications. That, plus the fact that these PCs are now so affordable, makes today the right time to buy a Pentium processor-based PC. For more information, call 1-800-333-4161, Ext. 215.

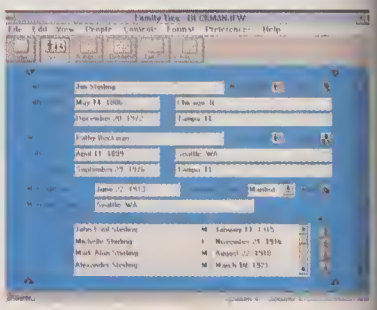
RedShift from Maris lets you explore the universe in 3-D, right from your PC.

intel®

©1994 Intel Corporation. All brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

great gifts under $100

Family Ties



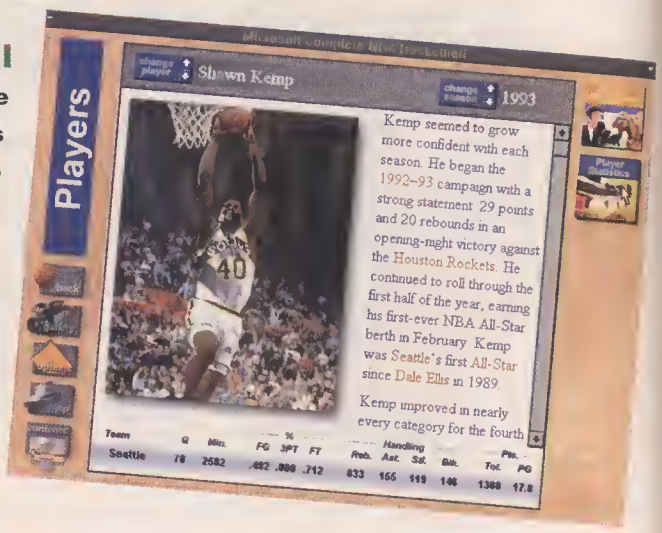
Any fortune-teller worth his or her salt can predict your future, but it takes good genealogical software to get a handle on your past. This entry-level program can help amateur genealogists trace their roots, organize information about births, deaths and marriages, and display the findings in a five-generational family tree. *$29.95 (Windows) from Individual Software, (800) 822-3522, (510) 734-6767.*

SafeSound Wireless Headset

These are heaven-sent for the parents of kids who like their computer games *loud*. Brightly colored, rugged plastic headphones provide high-quality sound for any PC game, and there are no wires to get tangled. Parents can set the maximum volume to protect tender young ears, and while kids hear all the zips, bangs and splats, parents enjoy blessed silence. *$59.95 from Sima Products, (800) 345-7462, (708) 966-0300.*

Complete NBA Basketball

Score points when you give this CD-ROM to the basketball fan on your holiday list. It's hoops galore, from player profiles, stats and photographs to team records, seasonal standings and trivia questions. The video clips—especially those dunk shots—are captivating. Like Complete Baseball before it, this program will probably help settle many wagers between sports fans. *$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080.*



Astonishing performance. Right in your own back yard.

intel inside pentium PROCESSOR

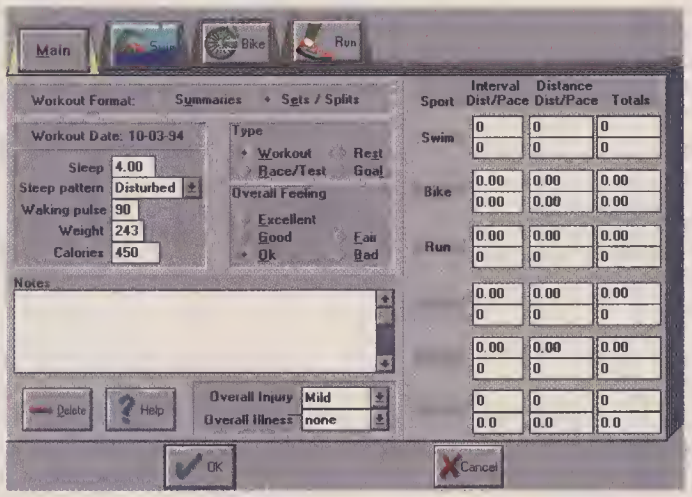
Want to build your dream home without driving a nail? Then design your landscape and watch it grow? With a PC based on the Pentium™ processor, you can. The fact is, all PC software runs better on a Pentium processor-based PC. But the more incredible the software, the more it demands Pentium processor performance. A PC based on the Pentium processor is also a good investment, since it will still have plenty of horsepower to run tomorrow's applications. That, plus the fact that these PCs are now so affordable, makes today the right time to buy a Pentium processor-based PC. For more information, call 1-800-333-4161, Ext. 216.

3-D Landscape from Books That Work is a multimedia tool that brings your landscape ideas to life.

intel®

©1994 Intel Corporation. All brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

great gifts under $100



UltraCoach

Put a personal trainer in your favorite athlete's PC. This program analyzes performance in swimming, cycling, running and other sports, then recommends workout regimes to help you achieve your goals. Sound and animation keep you motivated: Beat your own personal best and receive the accolades of the screaming masses. *$59.95 (Windows) from UltraCoach, (800) 400-1390, (909) 625-0463.*

Professor Iris Fun Field Trip: Animal Safari

Fans of *Iris: the Happy Professor*, a popular children's show on the Discovery Channel, will be thrilled to tune into this CD-ROM. With a little help from his friends—and a full array of multimedia tools—the professor teaches kids about animals and their habitats. *Ages 3 to 6. $39.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Discovery Communications, (800) 762-2189, (301) 986-0444.*

The Notebook Wetsuit

Thanks to the wet look, the dry look is in for your portable PC. The neoprene and nylon carrying case, which is waterproof and padded, protects your notebook from the harsh realities of the world. The zippered case fits snugly over the PC and is designed never to be removed. Choose from among five stylish colors. *$40 from Silicon Sports, (800) 243-2972, (415) 327-7900.*

Astonishing performance. From any point of view.

Want to wrap up your latest project in record time? And make all your favorite programs work together like one? With a PC based on the Pentium™ processor, you can. The fact is, all PC software runs better on a Pentium processor-based PC. But the more incredible the software, the more it demands Pentium processor performance. A PC based on the Pentium processor is also a good investment, since it will still have plenty of horsepower to run tomorrow's applications. That, plus the fact that these PCs are now so affordable, makes today the right time to buy a Pentium processor-based PC. For more information, call 1-800-333-4161, Ext. 217.

Lotus SmartSuite combines five key desktop tools to help you get the job done fast.

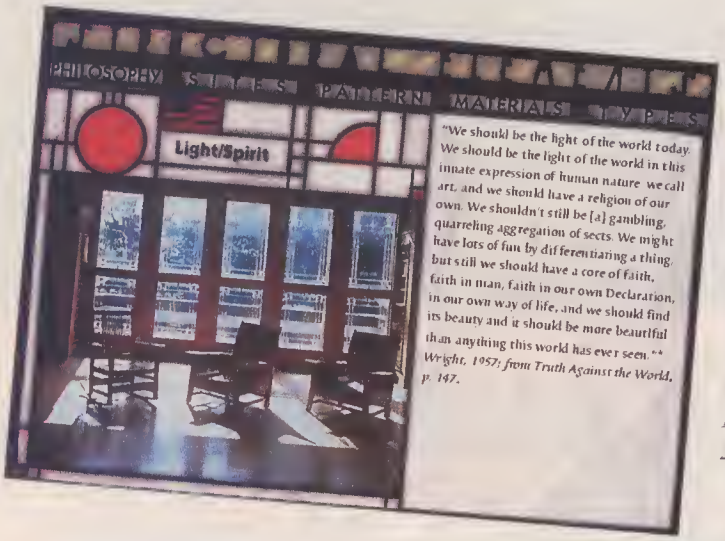
intel

©1994 Intel Corporation. All brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

great gifts under $100

WingMan and WingMan Extreme

Flight simulator fans can fly without discomfort for hours of white-knuckled fun thanks to two new ergonomically designed joysticks. WingMan has a trigger and thumb switch, plus a throttle control in its heavy base. WingMan Extreme adds extra palm support and three more buttons for those who have a lot of virtual enemies to conquer. *$29.95 and $49.95 from LogiTech, (800) 732-2990, (510) 795-8500.*



The Ultimate Frank Lloyd Wright: America's Architect

Architects come and architects go, but few match the genius of Frank Lloyd Wright. This CD-ROM takes you on a virtual tour of many of Wright's most famous buildings and offers discussions of his life and art. *$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Microsoft and Byron Preiss Multimedia, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080.*

Launch Pad

Here's the perfect gift for a Mac-savvy family. This animated desktop is really a security program: It lets kids easily find their games—and it prevents them from getting near your files. But kids won't ever suspect the software is a locked door keeping them out of grown-up business. They'll be too busy exploring scenes of magic castles and dinosaurs. *Ages 3 to 10. $29.95 (Macintosh) from Berkeley Systems, (800) 877-5535, (510) 540-5535.*

Multimedia CELEBRITY POKER

FEATURING

- ★ Jonathan Frakes
- ★ Morgan Fairchild
- ★ Joe Piscopo

We've Raised the Ante in CD-ROM Entertainment!

Multimedia Excitement!

The stars are out—and they're ready to ploy!

Multimedia Celebrity Poker combines the magic of Hollywood, the fun and excitement of poker, and the interactive experience of CD-ROM technology for Windows.

Grab a chair and ante up with Joe Piscopo of *Saturday Night Live* fame, Jonathan Frakes from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*,™ and sexy Morgan Fairchild, whose TV hits include *Falcon Crest* and *Flamingo Road*.

Celebrity Poker is outrageous fun and realistic entertainment like you've never played before.

Lights...Camera...Deal!

Interactive Entertainment!

Actual IBM screen shot.

Full Motion Celebrity Video!

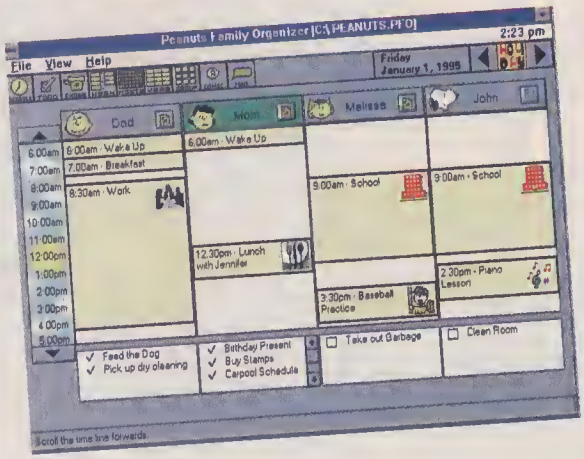
Multimedia Celebrity Poker is available at your local software retailer or order direct from New World Computing at

1-800-325-8898

(818) 889-6070 outside the U.S., or by mail:
P.O. Box 4302, Hollywood, CA 90078-4302.

NEW WORLD COMPUTING, INC®

©1994 New World Computing, Inc. Multimedia Celebrity Poker is a trademark of New World Computing, Inc. New World Computing and its distinctive logo are registered trademarks of New World Computing, Inc. All other trademarks belong to their respective holder(s). All rights reserved. IBM screen shown. Actual screens may vary.



Peanuts Family Organizer

Charlie Brown, Snoopy, Lucy and the rest of the Peanuts gang step out of the funny pages to lend a helping hand to your scheduling chores. Use the software to create individual and family calendars, stop worrying about who should be where when, and let Snoopy keep track of all your hectic schedules. *$19.95 (Windows and Macintosh) from Individual Software, (800) 822-3522, (510) 734-6767.*

Rand McNally's TripMaker

Got a friend who's yearning to hit the road? This trip planning software helps you pick a dream destination in the continental U.S., Canada or Mexico, maps out the best ways to get there, provides itineraries and an estimated budget and even suggests places of interest worth visiting along the way. Sorry, it won't pack your suitcase! *$49 (Windows CD-ROM) from Rand McNally, (800) 671-5006, (708) 329-6145.*

The Lion King Animated StoryBook

Simba the Lion King, star of the hit Disney film, comes home on your computer. A child can read the story from text on-screen or listen while it's read aloud by the program. The storybook also features games, puzzles and songs. The program's sure to be a hit with children this holiday season, and we ain't lion! *Ages 3 to 9. $49.95 (Windows, Macintosh) from Disney Software, (800) 688-1520, (818) 543-4300.*

Do You Make These Six Common Mistakes On Your Taxes?

Six common mistakes can cause you big headaches on your taxes. An oversight here, an omission there. From unnecessary tax payments to full blown IRS audits—you can end up paying too much … or worse. But now, using TurboTax® or MacInTax®, you can avoid these simple but costly mistakes:

1 The Arithmetic Error
Today, even the simplest forms contain complex calculations. And with all the late-night scrambling, an innocent mistake could cost you plenty.

2 The Transcription Error
With all those numbers being juggled from schedule to schedule, it's no wonder the figures are so often transcribed incorrectly or entered on the wrong line.

3 The Omitted Form
Even "ordinary" returns require anywhere from six to a dozen forms to complete. It's easy to miss one or end up rushing all over town to find the one you need.

4 The Misinterpreted Instruction
At best, IRS instructions can be tough to understand. At worst they can be mind-boggling. What you need are clear directions in plain English.

5 The Overlooked Deduction
You'd have to be a professional tax preparer to know all the deductions you're entitled to. If you miss just one, it could cost you hundreds of dollars.

6 The Exceeded Guideline
The fastest way to trigger an IRS audit is to exceed the "normal" range on one of your deductions. You need to know what the IRS looks for on a line-by-line basis.

When you do your taxes with TurboTax, mistakes like these are virtually impossible. And filing your taxes couldn't be easier.

Macintosh DOS Windows

Now With TAX ADVICE

America's #1 Tax Software

The fastest, easiest way to do your taxes right. With a new Windows interface and enhanced capabilities for 1994, America's #1-selling tax software now makes preparing your income taxes easier than ever. Just gather your records and receipts, sit down at your computer and let TurboTax's award-winning EasyStep® tax preparation system guide you through every step of the way. Then print out your forms, sign them and drop them in the mail. It's that easy!

New "smart features" save time and ensure accuracy. Our TaxAdvisor™ points out overlooked deductions and mistakes on the fly—while you're entering your data into our Windows and Macintosh software—to improve the accuracy of your return. And the SmartAudit™ feature hunts down errors, omissions and likely audit items …and takes you directly to each item and tells you what to change and how. All in a fraction of the time you'd spend checking and revising your return manually.

Get more out of Quicken® with TurboTax. Our TaxLink innovation lets you work with TurboTax and Quicken—America's #1 personal finance software—as if they were a single program. Zoom in on tax-related Quicken transactions from within TurboTax—item by item—and reassign tax categories to maximize your tax savings. Then jump back to TurboTax and see the recalculated results. (Windows version only.)

TurboTax Quicken

Take our powerful CD-ROM for a spin. TurboTax on CD-ROM offers concise, full-motion video and audio assistance, plus over 60 IRS publications and expert tax advice from Marshall Loeb, former managing editor of Fortune magazine and tax attorney, Mary Sprouse, former IRS Audit Group manager, and author of the The Money Income Tax Handbook.

PC WORLD

More returns filed and more awards won than any other tax software. Over 40 million returns have been filed using TurboTax, making it the nation's most trusted tax preparation program. So order today. And see for yourself why the new TurboTax is easily the best tax software ever!

Includes 2 Free Bonus Gifts!

Tetris. Rotate and flip moving pieces as they fall from the top of the screen. Fit the pieces precisely with others to form a complete row. The quicker you are, the higher your score!

Money Tax Strategies Book. Over 100 pages of money-saving tax strategies, from renowned tax authority Mary L. Sprouse and the experts at *Money* magazine.

☐ Yes, I'll try TurboTax FREE!

Intuit

Rush me my FREE gifts and FREE TRIAL copy of TurboTax as soon as they're available (usually late October). If I'm not 100% satisfied, I'll return TurboTax within 30 days and owe nothing. If I decide to keep it, my credit card won't be charged until after my 30-day Free Trial. Either way, my FREE gifts are mine to keep, whatever I decide.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Bill My: ❑ Visa ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ Amex

I understand that there is an additional $7.00 shipping per order.

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please Choose:

❑ 3-½" disks, or ❑ High Density, or
❑ 5-¼" disks ❑ Low Density

❑ TurboTax (IBM®-compatible) $39.95
❑ TurboTax for Windows™ $39.95
❑ TurboTax for Windows - CD ROM $39.95
❑ MacInTax (for Macintosh®) $39.95

Mail your order to: Intuit, 2650 E. Elvira Rd., #100, Tucson, AZ 85706-7180. Or Call NOW:

800-964-1040
ext. 42430

TurboTax requires IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/1, PS/2 or compatible, DOS 3.0 or higher. 640K RAM, hard drive. TurboTax for Windows requires Windows 3.1 or higher. 4 MB RAM, hard drive. CD-ROM minimum requirements are Windows 3.1 or higher, 256 color-capable VGA monitor, double speed CD-ROM drive, and sound card. MacInTax requires Macintosh Plus, System 6.0.5 or higher, hard drive. Offer expires 4/15/95, not valid with any other offer. ®TurboTax MacInTax, EasyStep and Quicken are registered trademarks of Intuit. Other trademarks are the sole property of their respective owners. †Residents of AZ, AR, CA, CT, FL, IL, MA, MI, MN, NV, NJ, PA, TX, UT, VA, WA please add applicable sales tax. Please add $7.00 shipping and handling per order. For retail purchases, attach a copy of sales receipt and enclose $7.00 U.S. for shipping and handling. (Check or money order payable to Intuit.) Send to: Intuit, Tetris Offer, 2650 E. Elvira Road, #100, Tucson, AZ 85706-7180. All prices are U.S. dollars. NOTE: Customer is responsible for return shipping charges.

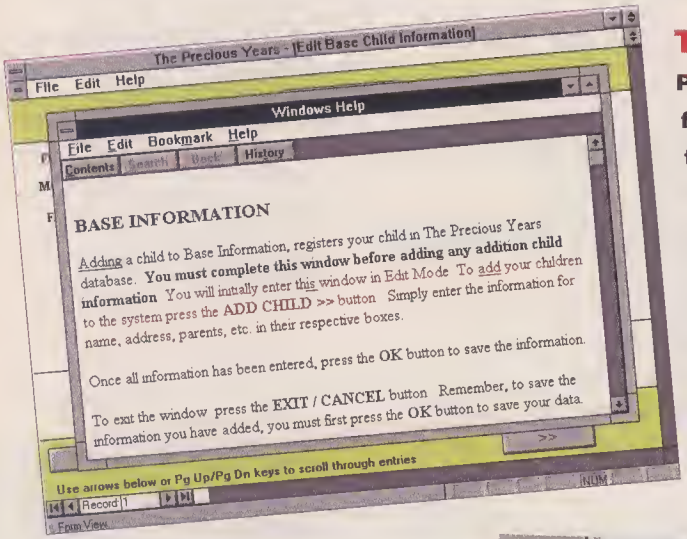
great gifts under $100

The Multimedia Cartoon Studio

If laughter is the best medicine, this CD-ROM will keep your favorite adults healthy and happy. It features cartoons from 22 artists that can be used as screen savers or to personalize your daily planner. Be forewarned: Some of these cartoonists have a decidedly odd sense of humor. *$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Time Warner Interactive, (800) 482-3766, (818) 955-9999.*

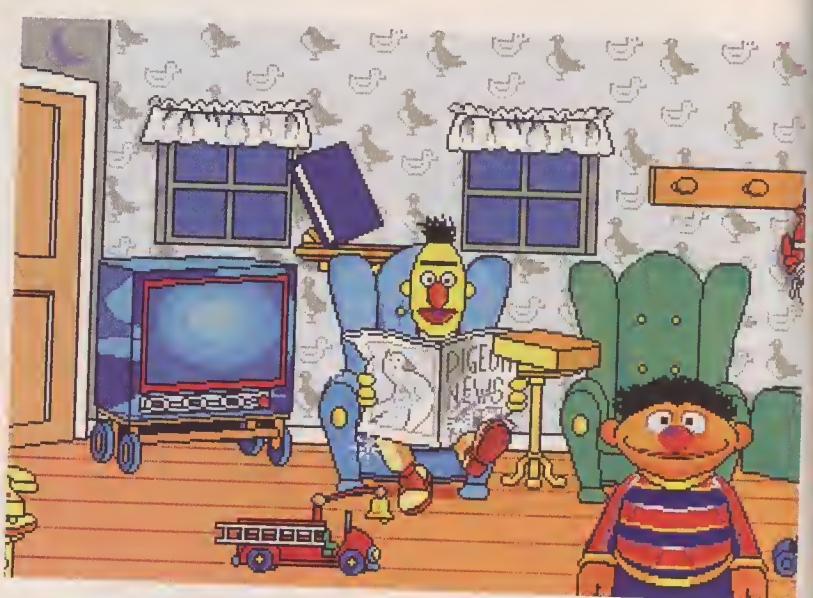
The Precious Years

Parents can track their children's progress from first steps to first dates with this electronic family album. Within its pages, they can keep a diary of special moments, store medical records and even scan in favorite photos. In future years, these digital memories are guaranteed to delight parents and embarrass their kids. Isn't that what a family album is for? *$39.95 (Windows) from Centsible Software, (800) 908-4445, (516) 683-0709.*



Sesame Street: Numbers

This tuneful CD-ROM takes preschoolers on an entertaining and educational trip down the most famous children's street in America. As kids visit the Count's Castle, Big Bird's nest and Bert and Ernie's apartment, familiar characters and other friends help them learn about numbers. Yes, you can always count on Sesame Street. *Ages 3 to 6. $37 (DOS CD-ROM) from EA*Kids, (800) 245-4525, (415) 571-7171.*



Jerry Lazar is a Teaneck, N.J.-based writer.

Each kit includes:
Full-Function Keyboard,
3-D Monitor Mask,
Mouse, Mouse Pad,
Multi-Media Disc Holder.

We call it the Nickelodeon™ Computer Accessory Kit.
But it's really a connection that hooks up your kids to their future,
by transforming any PC into a total environment that's
inspiring for them and practical for you. What a 90's idea.
For more information or for a retailer near you call 800-999-9989.

BrainWorks

Helping little brains work better.

Available nationally at COMPUSA COMPUTER CITY SOFTWARE ETC

Computer Accessory Kits starring the Flintstones® and Star Trek: The Next Generation® are also available.

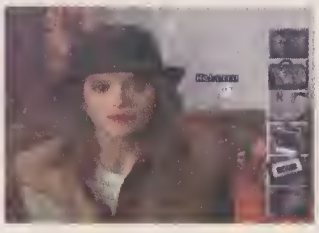
the best of '94

Our software reviewers are a highly critical bunch. It takes a truly creative and well-designed program to get a four-star rating. Since *HomePC*'s launch in June, only 28 programs reviewed in our Fun and Games, Kid Raves and Home Library sections have earned unqualified recommendations. Along with the gift suggestions on the previous pages, these games and reference programs are sure to please someone on your holiday list. Here's a roundup of the year's four-star software, with current prices, ordering information, suggested ages for the kids' programs and the month of each review, so you can read for yourself just why we think they're special.

FUN AND GAMES

It's a Wonderful Life Multimedia Edition
Kinesoft Development, (708) 506-9562
$79.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
June

Millennium Auction
Eidolon, (718) 884-7095
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
October



Return to Zork
Activision, (800) 477-3650, (310) 479-5644
$79.95 (DOS, DOS CD-ROM)
June

SimCity 2000
Maxis, (800) 336-2947, (510) 254-9700
$54.95 (Windows, Macintosh)
June

Star Wars Rebel Assault
LucasArts, (800) 782-7927, (415) 721-3300
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
August

The Residents: Freak Show
The Voyager Company, (800) 446-2001, (914) 591-5500
$79.95 (Macintosh CD-ROM)
August

KID RAVES

At Bat
Jambone Comics, (604) 739-7281
$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)
Ages: 4 to 12
December

Bug Adventure
Knowledge Adventure, (800) 542-4240, (818) 542-4200
$49.95 (DOS)
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
Ages: 3 to 8
October

DinoPark Tycoon
MECC, (800) 685-6322, (612) 569-1500
$59.95 (DOS, Macintosh)
Ages: 8 and up
August

Discovering America
Lawrence Productions, (616) 665-7075
$59.95 (DOS, Macintosh)
Ages: 8 and up
December

Dr. T's Sing-A-Long: Kids' Classics
Dr. T's Music Software, (800) 989-MIDI, (617) 569-1454
$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM)
Ages: 3 to 10
August

Mario Teaches Typing
InterPlay, (800) 969-GAME, (714) 553-6655
$29.95 (DOS)
$34.95 (Macintosh)
$39.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
Ages: 4 to 14
December

Math Ace
Magic Quest, (415) 321-5838
$49.95 (DOS)
Ages: 8 to 14
August

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

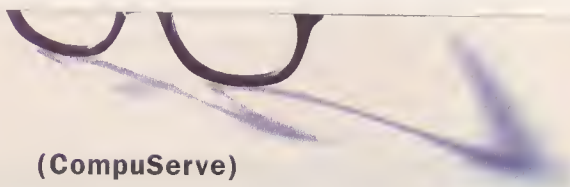
HOMEPC
P.O. BOX 420212
PALM COAST FL 32142-9468

er online service has more
do, or more cool people
than GEnie.® Join dozens
RoundTables, download
00 files, talk to all those
on the Internet, play some
games, and so much more
you won't believe
your eyeballs.

OL
fer
below

Join GEnie®
now, and we'll
give you 50 bucks
worth of free services
irst month.* This offer will
eated. We want new cus-
don't want to go broke.

Even
cooler
offer!



(CompuServe)

rogram
with icons that make GEnie easy to use
even if you're technologically inept.
Available for Windows or Mac.** Call
1-800-638-9636, or download it once
you're on-line (TDD 1-800-238-9172).

GEnie®
the most FUN
you can have with your
computer ON!

NO POSTAGE
NECESSARY
IF MAILED
IN THE
UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO. 697 ROCKVILLE, MD

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

GEnie
401 North Washington Street
Rockville, Maryland 20850-9848

commu-
ware for
al echo),
0 baud.
bit. Or 7
stop bit.
-8369 or
0. After
: the U#=
hen press
er code
get this
or credit
may also
number.
ard only.

ey are before
nie. This offer
bscribers only.
requirements:
assic or higher,

tl

Our s
progr
in ou
mend
progr
star s
and tl

THERE'S NEVER BEEN ANYTHING QUITE LIKE IT !

HOMEPC

YES, I want to subscribe today and save. Please send me 12 issues for just $12.97. That's a savings of 41% off the basic annual subscription rate. Plus, I'll receive a ***FREE*** gift with my paid subscription, the "HomePC FunPak" disk full of fun and useful software programs.

Send no money now. We'll bill you later.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Basic annual subscription rate: $21.97. Canadian subscriptions are $22.97 per year, (Canadian GST is included). Foreign subscription rate is $39.97, U.S. funds, prepaid only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.

6412NJ

FUN

It's a
Life M
Editic
Kinesoft Development, (708) 806-9562
$79.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
June

Millennium Auction
Eidolon, (718) 884-7095
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
October

Return to Zork
Activision, (800) 477-3650, (310) 479-5644
$79.95 (DOS

(513) 542-4200
$49.95 (DOS)
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM)
Ages: 3 to 8
October

DinoPark Tycoon
MECC, (800) 685-6322, (612) 569-1500
$59.95 (DOS, Macintosh)
Ages: 8 and up
August

Discovering America
Lawrence Productions, (616) 665-7075
$59.95 (DOS, Macintosh)
Ages: 8 and up
December

☐ **I'm Cool.** Send me my free GEnie front-end disk.

(Windows and Mac users only. Everyone else gets other cool stuff.)

☐ **I'm not Cool.** Don't waste any free stuff on me.

Name: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____

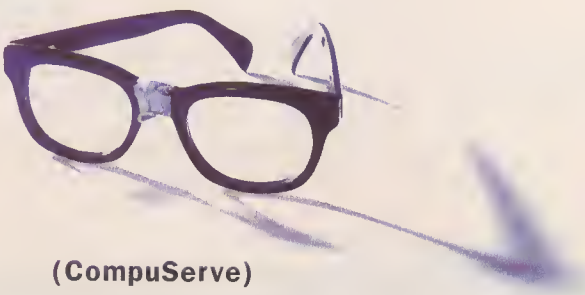
State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Phone:** (_____) _____

Platform: Windows ___ **MAC** ___ **DOS** ___ **Amiga** ___ **Atari** ___ **Other:** _____

Minimum hardware requirements: 386 and Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM. Mac Plus/Classic or higher, 4MB RAM

ABL428

(America Online)



(CompuServe)

GEnie

America Online and CompuServe are not really glasses, they're online information services.

No other online service has more cool stuff to do, or more cool people to do it with than GEnie®. Join dozens of awesome RoundTables, download over 200,000 files, talk to all those smart guys on the Internet, play some butt-kicking games, and so much more you won't believe your eyeballs.

Cool offer below

$50 Free! Join GEnie® now, and we'll give you 50 bucks worth of free services during the first month.* This offer will not be repeated. We want new customers. We don't want to go broke.

Even cooler offer!

Get a free front-end program with icons that make GEnie easy to use even if you're technologically inept. Available for Windows or Mac.** Call 1-800-638-9636, or download it once you're on-line (TDD 1-800-238-9172).

GEnie®

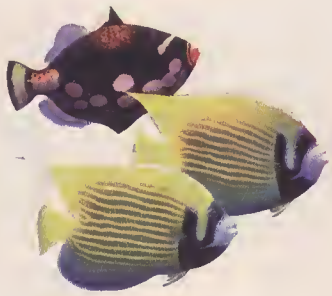
The most FUN you can have with your computer ON!

Sign up NOW! 1. Set your communications software for half duplex (local echo), at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud. 8 data bits, no parity, 1 stop bit. Or 7 data bits, even parity, 1 stop bit. 2. Dial toll free: 1-800-638-8369 or in Canada 1-800-387-8330. After connecting, enter HHH 3. At the U#= prompt, enter JOINGENIE then press <RETURN> 4. At the offer code prompt enter ABL428 to get this cool offer. 5. Have a major credit card ready. In the U.S., you may also use your checking account number. In Canada, Visa and MasterCard only.

* Some restrictions apply. Find out what they are before you sign up by calling or logging on to GEnie. This offer is in lieu of all other offers, and is for new subscribers only. Available in U.S. & Canada only. **Minimum requirements: 386 and Windows 3.1, 4MB RAM. Mac Plus/Classic or higher, 4MB RAM.

Math Blaster: In Search of Spot
Davidson, (800) 545-7677, (310) 793-0600
$59.95 (DOS, Windows, Windows CD-ROM)
Ages: 6 to 12
October

Odell Down Under
MECC, (800) 685-6322, (612) 569-1500
$59.95 (Windows, Macintosh)
Ages: 9 and up
September



Puddles to Pondwater
Niad, (905) 470-0868
$59.95 (DOS)
Ages: 7 to 14
November

Putt-Putt Goes to the Moon
Humongous Entertainment, (206) 485-1212
$49.95 (DOS, DOS CD-ROM, Macintosh, Macintosh CD-ROM)
Ages: 3 to 8
June

Richard Scarry's Busytown
Paramount Interactive, (800) 428-5331, (415) 813-8030
$39.95 (Windows, Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh, Macintosh CD-ROM)
Ages: 3 to 7
June

Sammy's Science House
Edmark, (800) 426-0856, (206) 556-8484
$35 (DOS, Macintosh)
Ages: 3 to 5
November

The Backyard
Broderbund Software, (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4600
$35 (Windows, Macintosh)
Ages: 3 to 6
June

The Oregon Trail
MECC, (800) 685-6322, (612) 569-1500

Instead of just dreaming about it,

$59.95 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)
$69.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)
Ages: 10 and up
June

HOME LIBRARY

Cinemania '94
Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080
$79.95 (Windows CD- ROM)
June

How Computers Work
Time Warner Interactive, (800) 482-3766, (818) 955-9999
$79.95 (Macintosh CD-ROM)
September

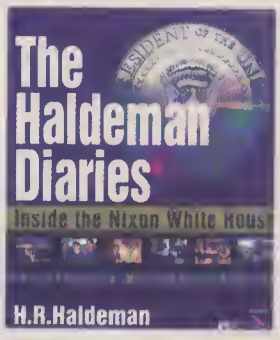
Multimedia Schubert: The Trout Quintet
Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080
$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM)
December

Small Blue Planet
Now What Software, (818) 992-8484
$79.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)
June

The Columbia Electronic Dictionary of Quotations
Aapex Software, (800) 728-7650, (702) 324-4580
$89.95 (Windows)
August

"Show me a good loser and I will show you a loser."
—Paul Newman

The Haldeman Diaries: Inside the Nixon White House
Sony Imagesoft, (800) 922- SONY, (310) 449-2320
$69.95 (DOS CD-ROM, Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)
October



The Viking Opera Guide
Penguin USA, (800) 253-6476, (212) 366-2000
$99.95 (Windows CD-ROM and book)
October

your kids can drive it.

Introducing Kids On Site. The interactive CD ROM that allows your kids to operate the real thing.

KIDS ON SITE

With Kids On Site, your kids won't just watch bulldozers and steamrollers. They'll operate them right from the driver's seat. Our experts have made this fun and truly interactive. Engage the hydraulics. Work the levers. Grind the gears and swing the wrecking ball. Colorful characters from the construction crew guide the young rookie through each rig's operation. Hard hats not included.

The Digital Kids line of products from Digital Pictures delivers 100% real video, real people (not cartoon characters) and instant response.

Digital Pictures

Kids On Site and **What's My Story?** are from the **Digital Kids** line of products by **Digital Pictures, Inc.** 1825 South Grant Street, Suite 900, San Mateo, CA 94402. © 1994 Digital Pictures, Inc. Digital Kids, What's My Story? and Kids On Site are trademarks of Digital Pictures, Inc.

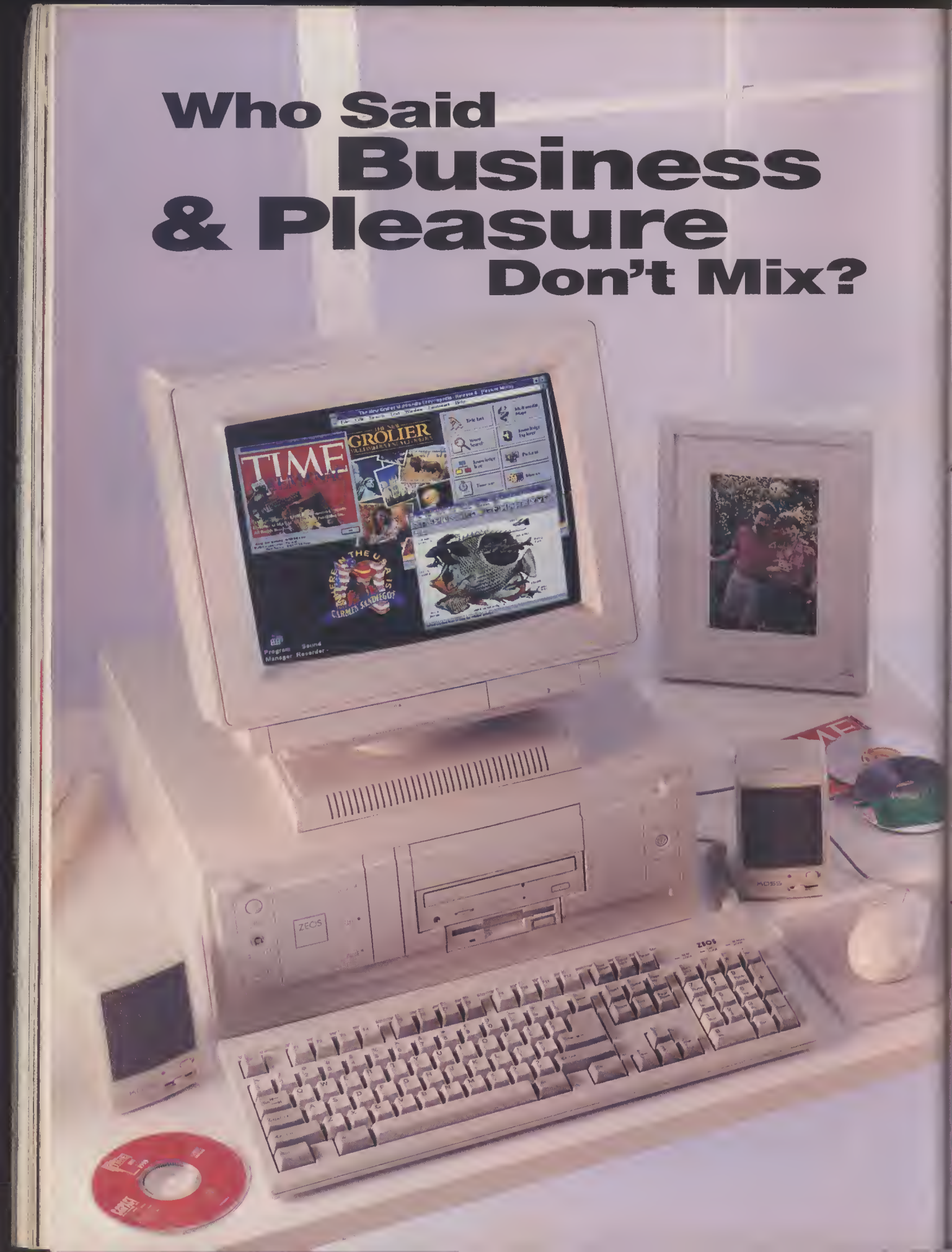
NYR Not Yet Rated

Kids On Site is available for PC CD ROM, Mac CD ROM and Sega CD™.
What's My Story? is available for Mac CD ROM.

SEGA

This official seal is your assurance that this product meets the highest quality standards of Sega™. Buy games and accessories with this seal to be sure that they are compatible with Sega™ and Sega CD™ System. Sega and Sega CD are trademarks of Sega Enterprises, Ltd. All rights reserved.

Who Said Business & Pleasure Don't Mix?



The ZEOS® Discovery™ PC...
Power & Performance At A Price That's A Joy.

The ZEOS Discovery gives you power and performance at a low price. It's the much needed (and fun) way to mix business and pleasure.

The Discovery is more than a traditional business computer. It's a multi-purpose PC designed to meet the needs of small businesses as well as you and your family. There's something for everyone—and enough power for all your applications.

If you *must* work at home, do so with confidence. The Discovery can handle intense graphic programs, spreadsheets and word processing. With a send/receive fax modem you can keep in touch with the office and clients—without leaving your desk.

Unlimited Possibilities

Unlock your business and creative potential with multimedia. Enjoy the sights and sounds that unfold before you. Activate your senses. Educate your mind. Animation. Colors. Audio. It's all waiting to be unleashed and it's easy with the Discovery MM's multimedia features—a dual-spin CD-ROM drive, a 16-bit stereo sound card and a pair of stereo speakers.

Buy With Confidence

For almost a decade, ZEOS has been earning price and performance awards for our leading edge desktop and notebook systems. This year, the Pentium CPU-based ZEOS Pantera has earned an unparalleled twelve top industry awards from leading computer publications.

As *PC/Computing* said: "A standout in speed and value... we suggest you spend your money on this machine—it offers the best value of any machine we tested."

There's more. You get the best service and support in the business. No company has earned more *PC Magazine* Readers' Choice for Service & Reliability awards than ZEOS—six in all. Plus, ZEOS offers 24-hour toll-free technical support—every day—for quick and accurate answers to your questions.

We've discovered an easy (and fun) way to mix business and pleasure—and you can too! The ZEOS Discovery is a sound decision for you and your family. To get interactive, call your ZEOS Systems Consultant today.

ZEOS Discovery MM

Pentium-60 $2345
Pentium-66 $2495
Pentium-90 $2645

- Genuine Intel Pentium™ processor.
- 8MB RAM
- 528MB local bus IDE hard drive with 120K cache.
- 2X CD-ROM and 3.5" 1.44MB floppy drive
- 64-bit PCI local bus SVGA color graphics card
- 14" 1024x768 non-interlaced color monitor, .28mm dot pitch
- Sound card and stereo speakers
- 14,400 send/receive fax modem
- 6-bay desktop case with two cooling fans
- Microsoft DOS 6.2, Windows for Workgroups 3.11, choice of Lotus Windows application

ZEOS Discovery EL

Pentium-60 $1845
Pentium-66 $1995
Pentium-90 $2145

- Genuine Intel Pentium™ processor.
- 4MB RAM
- 214MB local bus IDE hard drive with 128K cache
- 3.5" 1.44MB floppy drive
- 64-bit PCI local bus SVGA color graphics card
- 14" 1024x768 non-interlaced color monitor, .28mm dot pitch
- 6-bay desktop case with two cooling fans
- Microsoft DOS 6.2, Windows for Workgroups 3.11

More processors available. Call for details.

Multimedia CD-ROM Software

With system purchase, we offer CD-ROM software bundles that include titles for every family member.

Home Office Bundle..... $129
Business Library, PhoneDisc USA Business, 1993 TIME Almanac, Graphic Photos, Multimedia Presentation Pack, and Sound Effects Library.

Home Recreation Bundle $129
Guinness Disc of Records, Chessmaster 3000, Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing!, World Atlas, US Atlas, The Animals!, and New Grolier Encyclopedia 6.0.

SPECIAL OFFER!
Purchase both bundles for only $199

The Discovery, a special system from our award-winning ZEOS Pantera™ line, features a ZEOS motherboard, which was designed specifically for Intel's Pentium processor, and 64-bit Windows-accelerated PCI local bus video for record-breaking performance that deserves a standing ovation.

800-214-6671
24 Hours a Day
365 Days a Year

ZEOS INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

Fax Orders: 800-362-1205 or 612-362-1205. Phone Orders: Government: 800-245-2449, Outside U.S. and Canada: 612-362-1212. Purchase Orders, MasterCard, VISA, Am Ex, Discover, COD and leasing programs.

Purchase orders are subject to approval. Business leasing programs available. All prices, specifications and availability are subject to change without notice, call to confirm these and warranty details. Prices do not include shipping. Novell compatibility is Developer Tested Only. Novell makes no warranties with respect to this product. All products and company names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. Intel Inside and Pentium Processor Logos are trademarks of Intel Corporation. ZEOS is a registered trademark, Computers Now! is a registered servicemark, Pantera and Discovery are trademarks of ZEOS International Ltd. ©1994 ZEOS International Ltd., 1301 Industrial Blvd., Minneapolis, MN 55413 USA. ZEOS is a publicly traded company (NASDAQ symbol: ZEOS)
PMM-HOM-9412

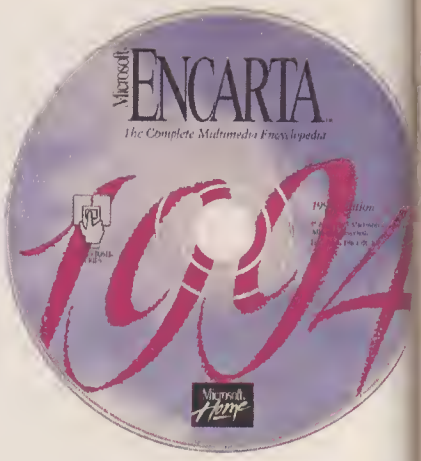
It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out

Compton's Encyclopedia

35,000+ Entries

Academic American Encyclopedia

33,000+ Entries

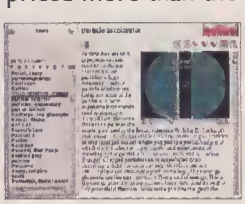


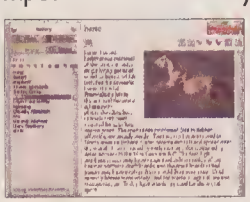
Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia

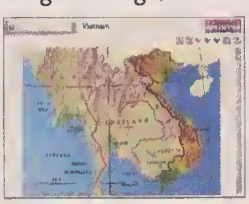
26,000+ Entries

It's obvious that InfoPedia has more information than the competition. But InfoPedia is more than information. It's the most comprehensive and revolutionary multimedia reference tool available. It's the most powerful. It's the easiest to use. And amazingly, while it should be priced more than the competition, InfoPedia is actually the least expensive. Making it genius, not just brilliant.

What makes InfoPedia so smart? InfoPedia combines the full 29-volume Funk and Wagnall's New Encyclopedia with a bookshelf of other reference tools including Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus, Hammond Atlas of the World, the 1994 World Almanac & Book of Facts, Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, Dictionary of English Usage, Dictionary of Quotations and Webster's New Biographical Dictionary.





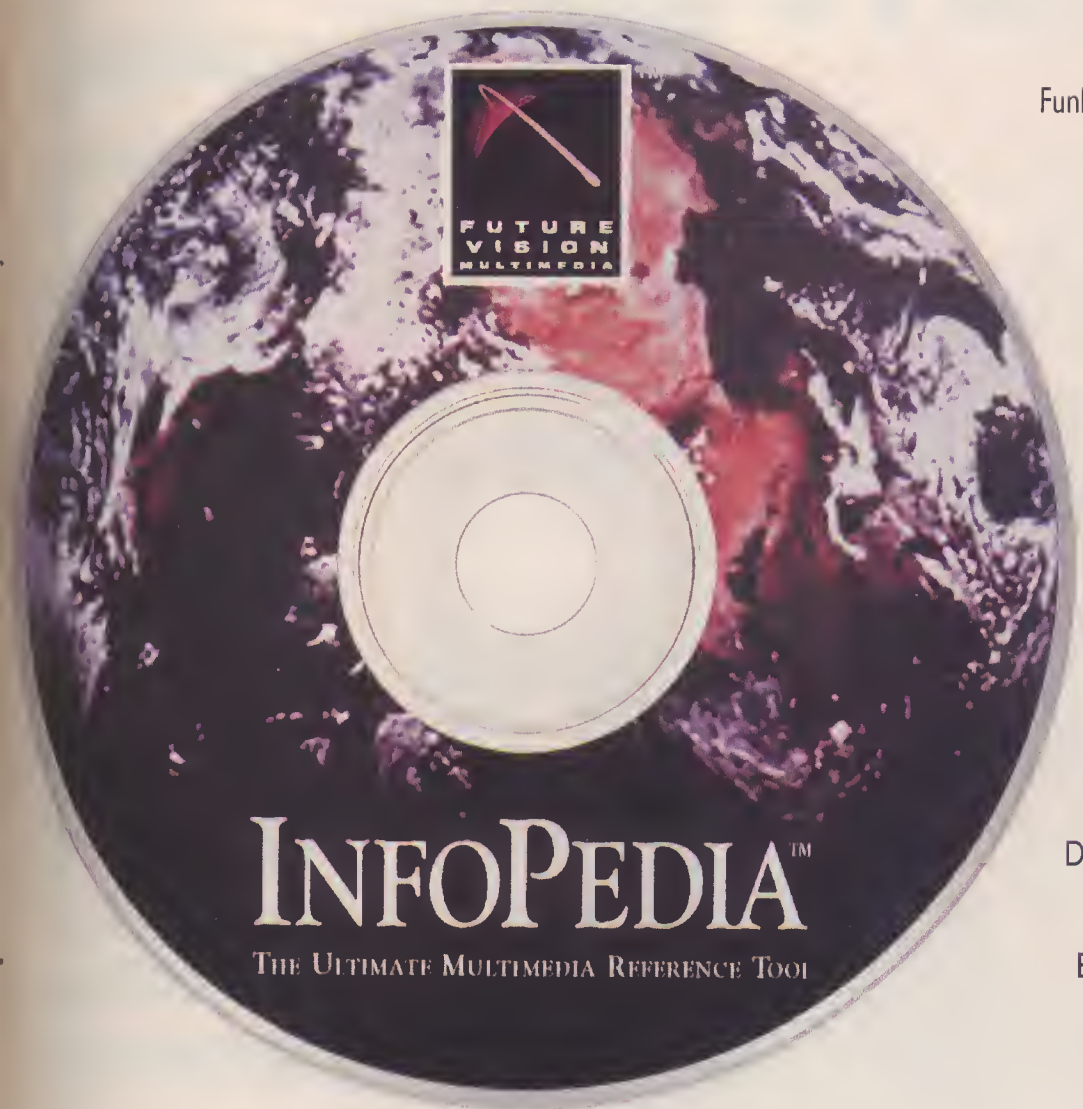


With over 60 video segments and 90 state-of-the-art, breathtaking animations to help

©1994 Future Vision Multimedia, a subsidiary of Future Vision Holding, Inc. All other product names are registered trademarks of their respective owners. This comparison is based upon 1994 editions.

Demo disc is subject to a $3.95 shipping and handling charge.

which multimedia reference tool is smartest.



Funk & Wagnall's Encyclopedia

Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus

Hammond Atlas of the World

The 1994 World Almanac & Book of Facts

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary

Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of English Usage

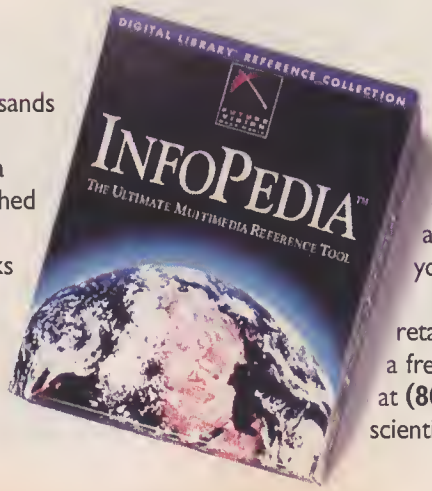
Merriam-Webster's Dictionary of Quotations

Webster's New Biographical Dictionary

200,000+ Entries

explain complex concepts plus thousands of images, including hundreds of full-color photographs, InfoPedia offers a total multimedia experience unmatched by the competition.

As for intelligence, InfoPedia breaks away from the traditional window-upon-window interface by introducing a new single-screen interface that allows for seamless cross-referencing between sources and



provides instant access to the volumes of information contained on the CD.

But you don't have to be a genius (or a member of Mensa) to use InfoPedia. It was designed for all age groups and can be easily customized to meet your specific needs.

To get InfoPedia, visit your local retailer. To order by phone or to receive a free demo disc, call our 24-hour hotline at **(800) 472-8777**. Of course, even rocket scientists will find InfoPedia invaluable.

FUTURE VISION MULTIMEDIA™

IMPROVE

YOUR FAMILY'S

INTERACTIVITY

CD-ROM

Compton's NewMedia puts a new world of excitement at your fingertips.

Compton's growing family of fully interactive CD-ROMs lets your family explore, discover, laugh, learn, sing, wonder, and experience the best in multimedia. If you're looking for a new way to connect with the best in education and reference, invite the members of our family to become new members of yours.

RESCUE THE SCIENTISTS™
Learn about science! Learn about history! Save the world! Featuring the voice of **Christopher Lloyd.**

ZOO-OPOLIS!™
Games, puzzles, songs, jokes and videos tell children all about animals.

AAA TRIP PLANNER
Create the ultimate road trip – a vast resource of AAA-rated attractions and services covering over 125,000 destinations.

THE DOCTORS BOOK OF HOME REMEDIES THE PREMIER EDITION
Practical advice in a dazzling multimedia guide featuring 25 minutes of video.

THE COMPLETE MULTIMEDIA BIBLE BASED ON THE KING JAMES VERSION
Experience the Bible in the rich dimensions of multimedia. Featuring the voice of **James Earl Jones.**

THE BERENSTAIN BEARS SONGS FROM BEAR COUNTRY™
8 best-loved stories with original music and high quality animation. Kids can watch, sing along and create their own videos.

LET'S GO®: THE BUDGET GUIDE TO EUROPE 1994
Explore, preview and prepare for any European adventure. Includes 25 minutes of video.

COMPTON'S NEWMEDIA
A Tribune New Media Company

800-862-2206
Compton's NewMedia, Inc.
2320 Camino Vida Roble
Carlsbad, CA 92009
Outside of U.S. and Canada fax (619)929-2628
©1994 Compton's NewMedia, Inc.

Last year you swore you'd never, ever again leave all your holiday shopping for the last minute. Come to think of it, didn't you say that the year before last, too? Yet here it is, almost Christmas, and you don't have time to eat lunch, much less shop for gifts for all your relatives, friends and business associates.

last-minute shopping?

try The Yule Catalogs

'Tis the week before Christmas
and you're in a panic,
Your gift list is long and your
life remains manic.
When what to your wondering
eyes does appear,
But *HomePC* with toll-free numbers,
gift guides and good cheer.

In a nutshell, this is why many Americans love mail-order shopping: It lets you make the rounds from the comfort of home, and you can get what you need fast. If computer-related products are on your loved ones' wish lists, there are a number of catalogs that make last-minute shopping easy: You'll find hardware and

by rebecca day

Illustration by Philip Andersen

The Yule Catalogs

software and a variety of nifty accessories to fit any price range. For instance, in one phone call you can snap up a CD-ROM encyclopedia for your teenage niece, a carrying case for your next-door neighbor's new laptop and a box of colorful diskettes for the office grab bag. Even better, you can make that call before breakfast, after dinner or at 3 a.m., because many mail-order companies are open around the clock.

Although regular delivery generally takes 10 to 14 days, most mail-order companies will ship your gift to arrive in two days, overnight or on a Saturday for an additional fee (delivery prices vary, so be sure to ask before you order). If you're way behind on your holiday shopping—or if you simply hate long lines at the post office—you can have your gift delivered directly to its destination, along with a holiday greeting on the packing slip—perhaps arranging for it to arrive on Christmas Eve.

And what if you order a gift and the person you're sending it to wants to exchange or return it? Each company's policy is different; again, be sure to ask what the return policy is before you place your order.

Here's a sampling of mail-order companies that either specialize in computer products or offer special sections for computer users. Typically, mail-order prices are very competitive. For each company listed below, we've provided phone and fax numbers you can use to request a catalog, get additional information and order your presents. We've also listed business hours, a sampling of products available, shipping arrangements and any special services the company provides.

And in case you haven't looked at the calendar lately, remember, Christmas falls on a Sunday this year, so consider in advance how that's going to affect delivery. Then relax and enjoy the season!

BDL Homeware

Phone: (800) BDL-4BDL, (602) 298-4212
Fax: None
Hours: Open 7 days, 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Mountain time)
Products: BDL Homeware says it develops and sells "software for normal people." The current catalog offers 11 individual programs for PCs covering family health, cars, collectibles, Schedule C of the IRS tax form and other subjects.
Shipping options: Overnight delivery is available.
Special services: BDL Homeware's help line—(602) 298-4212—provides unlimited technical support for the recipient of your gift. The company offers a 30-day money-back guarantee, and if you're giving one of BDL's programs as a Christmas gift, the 30-day countdown begins Dec. 25 for the person who receives the program, no matter when you place your order. For an extra $2, BDL will wrap your gift and include a card.

CD-ROM Warehouse

Phone: (800) 237-6623, (908) 370-3801
Fax: (908) 370-7046
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week
Products: True to its name, the CD-ROM Warehouse has everything you need to make a PC or Mac CD-ROM owner happy, from drives to software to storage caddies.
Shipping options: Overnight delivery is available; CD-ROM Warehouse offers—but does not guarantee—Saturday delivery in certain areas of the country.

Damark

Phone: (800) 729-9000, (612) 535-8880
Fax: (612) 531-0281
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week
Products: Damark offers low prices on overstock and closeout products, including computers, laptops, CD-ROM drives, hard drives, tape backups, software programs, CD storage racks and other accessories. (Note that you may get a good price on a closeout computer—and most come with warranties—but a closeout could mean that model is nearing obsolescence.)
Shipping options: Overnight delivery is available.
Special services: Membership in Damark Preferred Buyers' Club ($49.99 per year, which is credited to future purchases) gives you a 10 percent discount off the published price of all products in the catalog and provides 60-day return privileges (the standard return policy is 30 days), special sale prices and a members-only phone line for customer service.

Educorp

Phone: (800) 843-9497, (619) 536-9999
Fax: (619) 536-2345
Hours: Monday to Friday, 6 a.m. to

These two things will bring out the most fantastic stories your child has to tell.

One will only cost you 39 bucks.

Yep, Kid's Studio™ is a wonderful alternative to making up a whopper every time something gets broken. This CD-ROM storymaking program lets kids get into Multimedia, and tell stories like never before. Since it runs on Windows and Macintosh, any kid (8 and up) can do it.

The big news is, kids can add their own photos with Kodak® PhotoCD. So they not only use the Kid's Studio Treasure Chest library of nearly 1000 photos and illustrations for their stories, but photos of themselves, the family, the dog, whatever.

Plus there are Cookie-Cutter cut and paste options, sound recording capabilities, and neato paint tools. Kids write and design all the text. They can play their stories as movies, slide shows, or print them as real live books. Even pop a disk in the mail and send a copy to Grandma.

CODIES EXCELLENCE IN SOFTWARE AWARDS

It's so intuitive, creative, artistic and fun, some very smart adults gave Kid's Studio the 1994 Codies Award in the Best School Productivity/Creativity Program category.

Want to order Kid's Studio for your kids, quick?

Just call **1-800-787-2983.** It's easy as pie, cheaper than a lamp.

BONUS
Get 150 Holiday images PLUS a Labtec computer microphone to add sounds to your story.
$30 value
ORDER NOW

KiD's StuDiO™

Creative storymaking for the entire family.

Also available at software retailers nationwide.

©1994, Storm Software

The Yule Catalogs

6 p.m. (Pacific time); Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Pacific time)

Products: You'll find a wide range of CD-ROM merchandise for both PCs and Macs, including CD-ROM drives, accessories, and education, entertainment and personal productivity software for children and adults.

Shipping options: Two-day, overnight and Saturday delivery is available.

Special services: If you're not sure what to give, Educorp has $20, $50 and $100 gift certificates, which the company will mail directly to the recipient.

MacWarehouse

Phone: (800) 255-6227, (908) 370-3801
Fax: (908) 905-9279
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Products: This catalog is a source for all things Macintosh, including computers, software, multimedia upgrade kits, carrying cases and other accessories.

Shipping options: Overnight delivery (Monday through Friday); Saturday delivery is available.

Special services: If you have a fax machine, you can receive more information about any product in the catalog by dialing the FaxFacts line—(203) 854-5300—from your fax machine and following the voice prompts.

MicroWarehouse

Phone: (800) 367-7080, (908) 370-4779
Fax: (908) 905-5245
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Products: MicroWarehouse features PC-based education, entertainment and personal productivity software for all ages. You'll also find PCs, laptops, tape backups, memory upgrades, fax/modems and other hardware, as well as accessories such as diskettes, glare filters and mouse pads.

Shipping options: Overnight delivery (Monday through Friday).

Special services: If you have a fax machine, you can receive more information about any product in the catalog by dialing the FaxFacts line—(203) 854-5300—from your fax machine and following the voice prompts.

PC Connection

Phone: (800) 800-5555, (603) 446-5555
Fax: (603) 446-7791
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Products: PC Connection carries computers, CD-ROM drives, storage units, software, diskettes, carrying cases for laptops and other accessories.

Shipping options: Overnight and Saturday delivery is available.

Special services: The recipient of your gift gets unlimited toll-free technical support from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. (Eastern time), Monday through Friday. If you're stumped on what to get the person who has everything, the sales staff will make suggestions that just may fit the bill. Gift certificates for $25 or more are available.

Power Up

Phone: (800) 851-2917, (908) 264-8324
Fax: (908) 888-9449
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Eastern time)

Products: Power Up specializes in PC software, including graphics, database, word processing, design, sports, language, educational and financial programs. It also sells diskettes, surge protectors, business card scanners, wrist rests and mouse pads.

Shipping options: Two-day delivery is available to most areas; overnight and Saturday delivery is also available.

Reliable Home Office

Phone: (800) 869-6000
Fax: (800) 326-3233
Hours: Open 24 hours, 7 days a week

Products: The focus is on making work at your computer easier and more comfortable; items include printer stands, storage cases for computer supplies, organizers, chairs, and ergonomic wrist and back rests.

Shipping options: Overnight and two-day delivery is available; Saturday delivery to selected areas.

Special services: Gift wrap of selected items for an additional $3.50 (includes a card). The company also offers $25 gift certificates, which can include your personal greeting.

Tiger Software

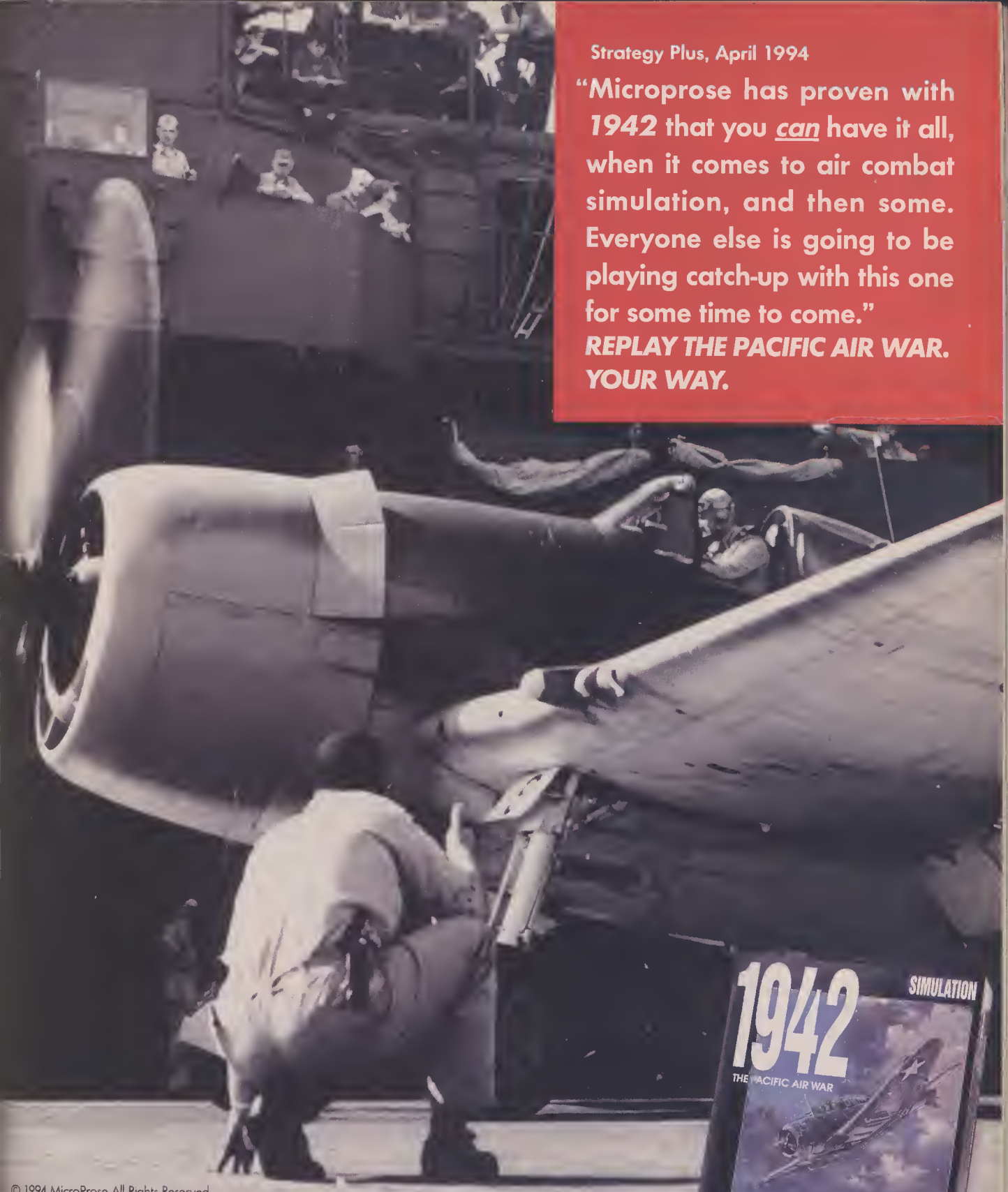
Phone: (800) 888-4437 for PC software; (800) 666-2562 for Mac software
Fax: (305) 529-2990
Hours: Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to midnight; Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (all Eastern time)

Products: This catalog includes desktop computers, laptops, multimedia accessories, add-on cards, fax/modems, educational, entertainment and personal productivity software for both PCs and Macs.

Shipping options: Standard delivery takes two business days; overnight and Saturday delivery is available.

Special services: Installment plans are available on some purchases. •

Rebecca Day is a Chestnut Ridge, N.Y.-based writer.



Strategy Plus, April 1994

"Microprose has proven with *1942* that you *can* have it all, when it comes to air combat simulation, and then some. Everyone else is going to be playing catch-up with this one for some time to come."

REPLAY THE PACIFIC AIR WAR. YOUR WAY.

© 1994 MicroProse All Rights Reserved.

MICROPROSE®

Anything is possible.

1-800-879-PLAY. For IBM-PC/Compatibles & CD-ROM.

COMPUTER Express

Since 1985

FIND IT ALL JUST

OPEN TIL MIDNIGHT E.S.T.

POWERFINDER

Imagine having your own personal 411 operator, with access to the whole country, right an your computer! Includes over 90 million listings with four-way reverse indexing of all listings. Print or export for mail-merge use. Accurate, up-to-date listings–It's the leading choice for Investigators, researchers and government agencies across the country. Runs on Macintosh and MS-DOS platforms.

DDA IBM/MAC CD #35619 **$132**

KIDS EDUTAINMENT

32070 Alge-Blaster 3 WIN 34
33814 Always Arthur CD 30
36339 AnaTommy CD 28
28598 Arthur's Teacher Trouble CD 35
33655 Backyard 30
33690 Barney Bear Goes to School 26
36394 Dinasaur Adventure 3-D CD 39
33659 Fatty Bears Fun Pack CD 23
28533 Just Grandma & Me Windows CD 35
33902 Maria's Fun with Numbers 26
34398 Math Blaster In Search of Spat CD 34
36523 Math Workshop CD 44
29864 Oregon Trail Deluxe 34
36828 Oregon Trail II CD 50
33679 Reader Rabbit I 35
36575 SimTawn 1BM CD 33
34309 Spell it 3 30
36092 Wanderoas Go Exploring CD 30
36094 Wanderoas Go To Town CD 30
36337 What is a Belly Button? CD 28
25008 Where in America's Past is Carmen? 30
30545 Where in Space is Carmen? Deluxe 40
21670 Where in Time is Carmen? 30
31582 Where in the USA is Carmen? 46
35514 Where in the USA is Carmen? CD 51
35900 Where in the Warld is Carmen? 46
35516 Where in the World is Carmen? 2.0 CD 44
32073 Word Attack 3 30

REFERENCE

TEST PREPARATION

22898 Calculus Studyware 25
25488 Chemistry Studyware 24
20501 GMAT w/Cliff Notes 30
20052 GRE w/Cliff Notes 30
21349 LSAT w/Cliff Notes 34
35566 Lavejays College Counselar CD 35
34461 Princetan Review SAT Exams WIN 21

REFERENCE

32550 20th Century Video Almanac CD 109
31340 American Heritage Dictianary WIN 35
20422 AutoMap 3 0 CD 51
32383 AutoMap Ski Resorts WIN 24
34083 Baokshelf '94 1BM CD 64
36462 Comptan's Inter. Encyclopedia '95 CD 89
31805 Dinasaurs Multimedia Windaws 1.0 CD 52
36855 Encarta Encyclopedia '95 CD 89
32597 Grolier Encyclopedia 6.0 CD 92
34727 Job Hunter's Guide ta Career 25
31778 King James Electronic Bible CD 19
36110 Sharks! 30

HEALTH

32110 Better Homes Health Cooking CD 36
33528 Mayo Clinic Family Health CD 35
34986 Mayo Clinic Family Pharmasist CD 35
36519 Maya Clinic Sports Health CD 35
33632 Mayo Clinic Total Heart CD 21

TRIPLE PLAY W/ MICROPHONE

Communicate with confidence, and converse with your computer In a foreign language! Includes a FREE microphone. Automatic Speech Recognition gives immediate pronunciation feedback, and an easy to use picture menu, plus an "all-games approach", make language learning fun for ages 9 and up. The dozens of games and camic strips teach over 1,000 words, plus phrases and conversations. Available in Spanish, French, English, and German versions. INCLUDES A FREE MICROPHONE!

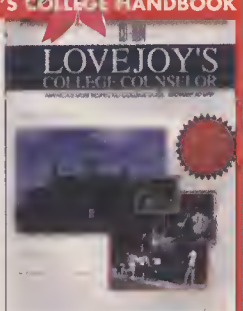
SYRACUSE LANGUAGE IBM CD **$55**

TRAIN ENGINEER

Design layouts and run your own train from the Engineer's cab. 24 easy-to-run layouts are included, with dozens of ather layouts detailed inside. Ready-to-use or modify and run. Real train sounds, special crash animations, and fast-clock disrealism. Weather, time of day or night, speed, - all functians are adjustable. Run up to 8 trains at once! DOS and Mac Versians also available.

ABRACADATA WIN #26142 **$30**

LOVEJOY'S COLLEGE HANDBOOK



An invaluable tool for college bound students! America's most respected college guide is brought to life with aver 1,000 photographs and 50 minutes af video. Helps select a college, find financial aid, and choose a major. Includes comprehensive information on over 1,600 four-year colleges, and more than 2,500 financial aid sources–from government scholarships to private sources. Explores 120 of the fastest-growing careers in the '90s job market!

INTERMEDIA IBM CD #35566 **$34**

GIFTMAKER

The first and only software package that lets you create your own personalized gifts and merchandise. Send Grandma a phata mug to commemorate your child's birthday, or create custom T-shirts far your softball team. Features easy-to-use design templates and a painless ordering system–even arder via modem! Your custom-created gifts are guaranteed to be delivered quickly–even gift-wrapped if you choase.

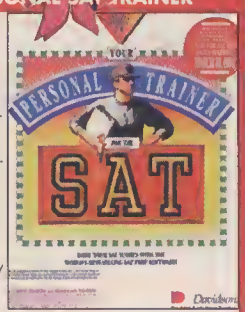
MAXIS WIN #35749 **$36**

MAGIC BEARS MASTERPIECES

Join Magic Beor for hours of fun! Hunt for missing tiles, complete a picture, copy a design or create your own original work of art! Children ages 5-9 will think it's all just fun and games, but all the while they're learning important geometry concepts! 120 puzzles, pictures and patterns of varying complexity teach your child how to reverse, invert, rotate, and manipulate shapes to create an infinite number af color and shape combinations. Mac version available. ASK FOR YOUR FREE CALCULATOR!

LEGACY SOFTWARE DOS #36345 **$20**

PERSONAL SAT TRAINER



Get in shape for the SATs with Your Personal Trainer. The personalized training schedule focuses an your strengths and weaknesses. Builds vocabulary, reading and math skills, and gives test-taking strategies for all key subject areas. Contains five full SAT tests-worth of questians– aver 750 problems. Includes test booklets, VGA graphics, on-line dictianary, glassary, and much marel 1BM CD and Macintosh version alsa available.

DAVIDSON WIN #32960 **$34**

HARDWARE

MODEMS/FAXES

31920 Best Data 14.4 External w/Fax 1BM 70
31919 Best Data 14.4 Internal w/Fax 1BM 70
36795 Best Data 28.8 External w/Fax 1BM 176
36433 Courier V.34 EXT 28.8 F/M 433
28367 Sportster 14.4 Internal 1BM 118
35433 Sportster 28.8 Internal 1BM 213
32314 SupraFaxModem 14.4 Internal 1BM 109
34686 SupraFaxModem 28.8 Internal 1BM 213

SPEAKERS

28122 ACS-300.1 Speakers w/Subwoofer 233
36510 Jazz J-520 Speakers 66
27950 Koss HD-4 Speakers 39
36332 Legend Speaker 20-Watt System 57
36331 Legend Speaker 8-Watt System 34

CD DRIVES & UPGRADE KITS

35855 4PLEX Quad-speed INT w/ctrl 582
30216 Discovery CD16 INT CDROM 327
36826 Legend CD Int. Kit w/6 Titles 238
31809 OmniCD Upgrade Kit 220

JOYSTICKS

31417 Flight Stick Pro 57
30825 Thrustmaster ACM Game Card 27
29522 Thrustmaster Pro Flight Control 112
35104 Thrustmaster F16 FLCS Control 112
31258 Thrustmaster Weapon Mark II 101

HARDWARE

PRINTERS

34228 BJ-10SX Bubble Jet Printer 271
33508 BJC-600 Bubble Jet Printer 534
32266 Epson Stylus 800 InkJet 276
35800 Epson Stylus Color InkJet 599

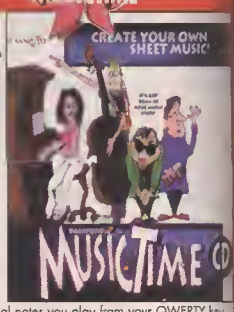
MEMORY/CPU UPGRADES

36147 1X3 Simms 70ns (4 Simms) ..... CALL
36136 1X9 Simms 70ns (4 Simms) ..... CALL
36149 4X9 Simms 70ns (4 Simms) ..... CALL
31751 Cyrix CX486DRX2-20/40 386DX-20 241
33620 Cyrix CX486DRX2-25/50 386DX25 281
31738 Cyrix CX486DRX2-33/66 386DX-33 322
31836 Cyrix CX486SRX2-20/40 386SX-20 217
34409 Cyrix CX486SRX2-25/50 386SX-25 249
35134 Overdrive 486DX-50 CPU 172
35502 Overdrive 486DX-66 CPU 232
36727 Overdrive 486DX4-100 CPU 546
36725 Overdrive 486DX4-75 CPU 456

SOUND CARDS

35628 Roland SCD-15 D8 Sound Canvas 208
32533 Sound Blaster 16 MCD ASP 178
32531 Sound Blaster 16 SCSI-2 147
34807 Sound Blaster 16 Value Edition 106
34661 Sound Blaster Pro Value Ed. 83
34660 Sound Blaster Value Edition 58
36498 Turtle Beach Monte Carla 88

MUSICTIME



Now, you and your computer can make beautiful music together! MusicTime is the most entertaining way to make music with your sound card or MIDI instrument. Compose, play and learn music on your computer. Displays actual notes you play from your QWERTY keyboard, ar from a MIDI instrument. Watch as MusicTime instantly creates beautiful, publisher-quality sheet music, right before your eyes. It's the perfect tool for your music! Mac and Windows also available.

PASSPORT IBM CD #3680B **$75**

WITH A CALL

800-228-7449

ORDER LINE ONLY EXT. 341

Here's Just a Small Sample of Over 5000 Products We Have in Stock. Call Us if You Don't See What Your Looking For!

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT

The world's most beautiful women are coming to a calendar near you! Features more than 70 stunning, full-color photos on CD-ROM. The electronic photo album makes it easy to view and organize all your images. Even display the images as computer wallpaper background! Package includes 12 full-color 8 1/2" x 11" gorgeous photographs. Create knock 'em dead calendars for yourself or to give as gifts! ASK FOR YOUR FREE T-SHIRT WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

SOFTKEY IBM CD #36803 **$25**

HOME/BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY

SPREADSHEETS/DATABASES

33032 Excel 5.0 WIN 304
35541 Excel 5.0 WIN Comp/Ver Upgrade 119
36138 Lotus 123 5.0 WIN Upgrade 97
32273 Quattro Pro 5.0 WIN 45
36061 dBase 5.0 WIN Upgrade 199

DESIGN/PUBLISH

33306 Card Shop Plus WIN 30
34905 Corel Draw 5.0 CD 452
34384 Corel Gallery CD 34
33036 Creative Writer 37
35851 Design Estimator 31
22477 Design Your Own Home Architect 32
24585 Design Your Own Home Interiors 31
25281 Design Your Own Landscape 35
33039 Fine Artist 43
28586 Key CAD Complete 25
31543 Key HameDesigner CD 26
36164 Lotus Ami Pro 3.1 $30 REBATE 97
34244 Perfect Resume 35
33923 Print Artist WIN 35
36030 Print Shop Deluxe 2.0 55
31527 Publisher 2.0 WIN 87
31050 Word 6.0 DOS 316
32876 Word 6.0 WIN 308
34604 Word Upgrade 6.0 DOS 119
32878 Word Upgrade 6.0 WIN 119
32211 WordPerfect 6.0A WIN 303
35190 WordPerfect Comp/Ver Upgrd 6.0A WIN 92

FINANCE/ACCOUNTING

36194 DacEasy Accounting 5.0 92
34117 DacEasy Accounting WIN 88
25479 Managing Your Money WIN 32
34082 Money 3.0 WIN 25
28391 QuickPay 3.0 46
32000 Quickbooks 2.0 98
36840 Quicken 4.0 WIN 42
36838 Quicken 8.0 DOS 42
36843 Quicken 4.0 CD 42
36841 Quicken Deluxe 4.0 CD 57
TAX SOFTWARE AVAILABLE, CALL FOR PRICES

LANGUAGES/ENVIRONMENTS

34803 IBM PC DOS 6.3 84
34804 IBM PC DOS 6.3 Upgrade 53
35281 MS-DOS Upgrade 6.22 51
34080 Windows 3.11 93
34081 Windows 3.11 Upgrade 51

UTILITY

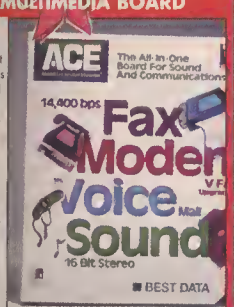
33711 Disk Optimizer 5.0 31
26453 Norton Utilities 8.0 115
23599 Norton Utilities Comp Upgrade 8.0 93
32821 Opus 'n Bill Screen Saver WIN 30
32612 PC Tools Pro 9.0 88
36050 Procomm Plus 2.0 WIN 101
31244 QEMM 386 7.x 63
28648 Star Trek Screen Saver WIN 30
21493 WinFax Pro 4.0 WIN 82

TV GUIDE / READER'S DIGEST

Two world-renowned favorites for a great price! Each contain 30 specially designed puzzles of varying difficulty. Clues can be colorful pictures, interesting sound bites, or even videos! TV GUIDE MULTIMEDIA CROSSWORDS tests your knowledge of the entertainment world. READER'S DIGEST MULTIMEDIA CROSSWORDS covers a variety of topics, including historical figures, sports, current events, literature, and much more! ORDER BOTH FOR ONLY $40!

INTERMEDIA IBM CD **$22**

ACE MULTIMEDIA BOARD



It's more than just a fax/modem. It talks and takes messages too! The all-in-one board for multimedia communications. Fax, modem, voice, sound in the most adaptable internal board available. Vastly increase the options you have with your PC. Simultaneously perform a wide-range of communications, messaging, and audio functions. Features 14,400bps modem with 9600bps send/receive fax. Upgradable to higher speeds.

BEST DATA IBM #31921 **$209**

MULTIMEDIA UPGRADE

INCLUDES:

- 6 Microsoft titles
- Sony CD Drive
- Stereo Speakers
- 16-bit Sound Card
- 1-Step Installation

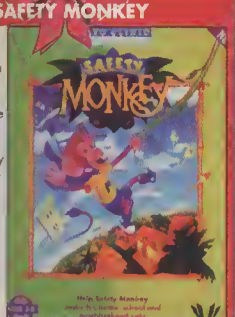
GREAT GIFT IDEA!

PRINTSHOP ENSEMBLE

Includes five great products on one CD! Features The Print Shop Deluxe, The Print Shop Deluxe Companion, Business Graphics, Sampler Graphics, and Comic Characters. Amazing Animals Graphics, plus 50 bonus graphics! Create greeting and post cards, business cards, signs and posters, calendars, letterheads, envelopes, banners and more! Join the millions of Print Shop users! INCLUDES A FREE CD-ROM TOWER COUPON!

BRODERBUND IBM CD #36031 **$73**

SAFETY MONKEY



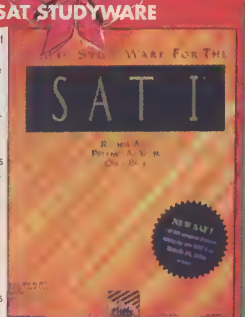
It's a cute and clever character who teaches kids ages 3 to 8 the importance of safety in a fun, entertaining way. They learn to identify and correct unsafe situations at home, school, the playground, and more. Shows them when it's time to get help from a grown-up! This CD-ROM is loaded with 3-D animation, sound effects, and original music. Makes a terrific resource for children and parents alike.

MI PUBLISHING IBM CD #36377 **$29**

FUN & GAMES

29037 7th Guest CD 50
32903 11th Hour 51
35717 Colonization: Sid Meier's 46
34010 Complete Baseball '94 MPC 1.0 41
36302 Dark Farces CD 46
33894 Doom 7
35719 Doom II: Hell on Earth 45
36320 Doom II: Hell on Earth CD 45
31273 Flight Simulator 5.0 43
35314 Front Page Sports: Football '95 42
35315 Front Page Sports: Football '95 CD 45
31659 Golf MPC 43
34006 Hardball IV 32
32122 Harpoon II 41
35326 King's Quest VII CD 47
34702 King's Quest Anthology CD 53
33204 Myst MPC 50
32155 Rebel Assault CD 45
31457 SimCity 2000 40
34693 Space Quest Anthology CD 45
31656 Space Simulator 44
34568 Star Trek: TNG A Final Unity CD 58
32152 Tie Fighter X-Wing II 46
36754 Tornado CD 25
32879 Ultima VIII: Pagan 47
34276 Wing Commander III CD 54
34939 Wing Commander Armada 47
28941 X-Wing 39

SAT STUDYWARE



Make the most of your study time and raise those SAT test scores! Covers all topics included on the SAT I, and diagnoses over 30 different areas. Features four full-length practice tests, individualized study plants, hints and strategies, plus thousands of questions and explanations. Print any screen, including all graphics and figures. Includes a New Cliffs Preparation Guide with three more full-length tests! Knowledge is power! Windows and Mac version available.

CLIFFS IBM CD #36017 **$34**

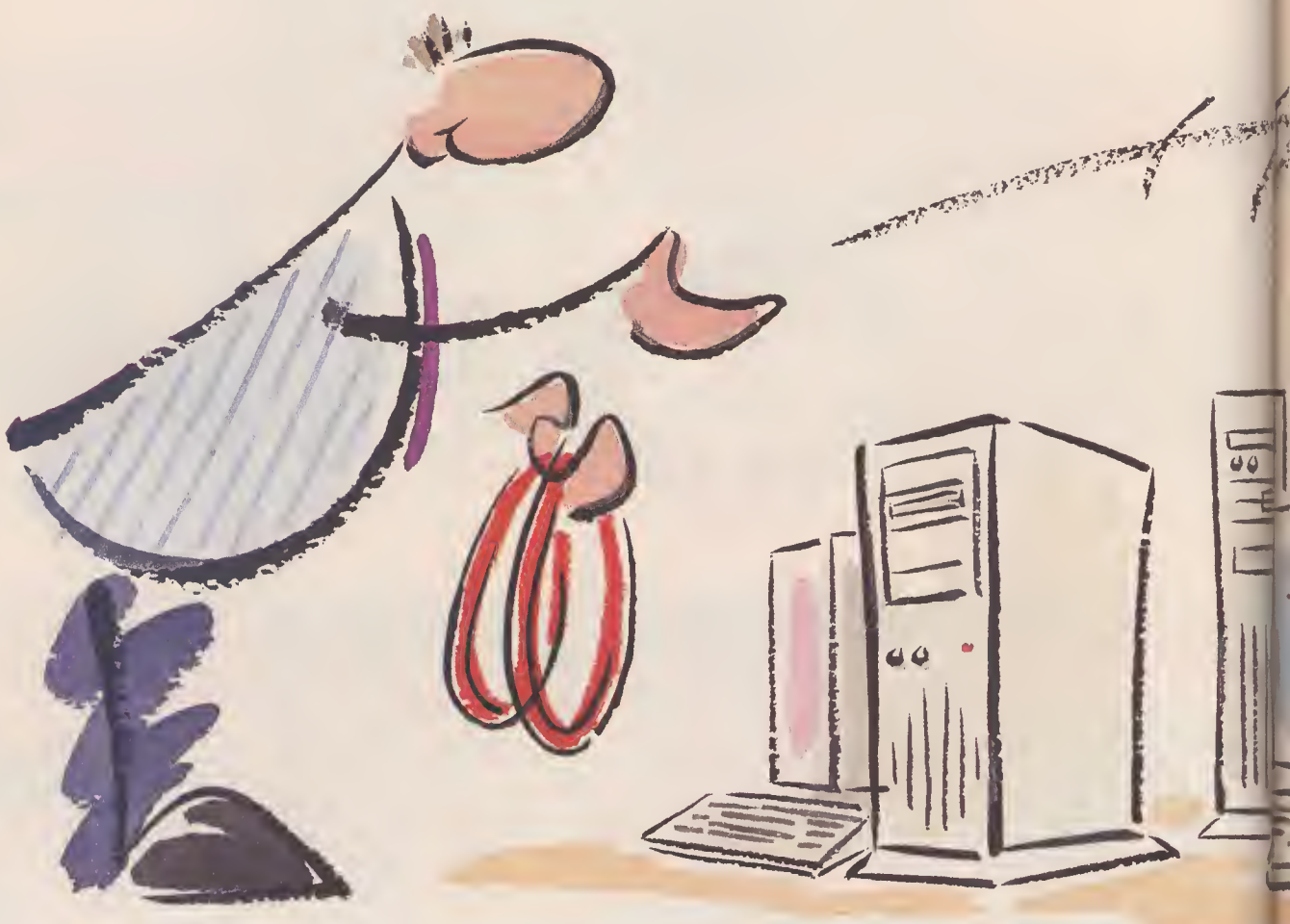
SHIPPING & HANDLING:
INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOME.
HI, PR, AK, APO SENT BY US MAIL FOR $5.

UPS $5 PER GROUND SHIPMENT | **AIR $7 PER BORNE SHIPMENT**

Our order lines are open 8am-12 am M-F 10am-6pm Sat Sun EST. Same day shipping on orders placed by 2pm EST; orders ship. No surcharge is added to credit card orders. Instock orders processed within 24 hours EST; same day. Temporary shortages usually ship within 7 days. VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX, POs, wire transfers, cash and cashiers checks accepted. Upon receipt and approval, personal or business checks clear within 14 days for immediate shipment. Products covered by manufacturers warranties. Defective software replaced immediately. Late model hardware repaired or replaced at our discretion. Books, memory chips, and some electronic components not returnable. Returns require authorization # and are subject to 15% restocking fee. Returns accepted only within 30 days. All items offered for sale are subject to availability. Some items may not available outside the U.S. We are not responsible for typographical errors. Prices and offers subject to change without notice. Additional charges may apply to large items. To protect customers from fraudulent credit card use, we may verify each credit card purchase is verified and shipped only to billing address.

Airborne charges $7 up to 6 lbs. $1 per lb. over 6 lbs. Actual freight charges may apply to large items.

how to pick the *perfect* **computer**



Illustrations by Nishan Akgulian

by

robert j. atkinson

For months you've been talking about buying a computer. Now you really mean it. Your kids need one for their school projects, you could use it to get work done after-hours and you're intrigued by that cool game Myst, the CD-ROM that your friends can't stop talking about. Besides, it's Christmas, and a new computer is a perfect gift for the whole family.

But now comes the hard part: Which computer do you buy? Some ads scream Pentium, others brag about great deals for 486SXs. You don't know whether to get a double-speed or triple-speed CD-ROM drive, and the only thing you know about a local bus is that it runs from one end of your town to the other.

to get what you want, you must know what you need. so let's review...

No doubt about it, shopping for a computer is confusing—but it's not impossible. You can find a computer you'll be happy with for years to come, if you just follow a few simple guidelines.

The first rule of computer shopping, whether you want an IBM PC-compatible or a Macintosh, is to skip any model that is not equipped for

multimedia. Multimedia machines support sound and video, and let you enjoy all the exciting new games and reference programs that sport full-motion video, animation, music and dialogue. Even less exotic multimedia software, such as personal finance programs, uses audio and video to explain difficult subjects.

The Micron P90 uses the fast Pentium chip.

The shopping list

But when a salesperson in a computer store asks you what kind of system you want, multimedia is only a good start. Here's what you need to ask for to be sure you get a computer that suits you to the last detail.

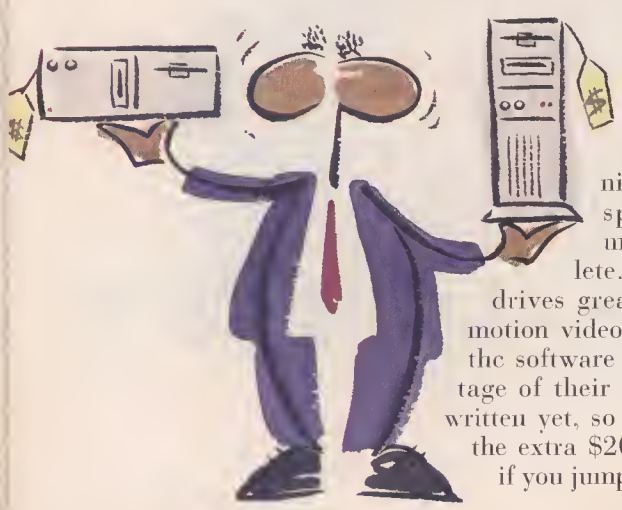
Bus. Actually, this is more like the roadway on which information travels to get from one part of the computer to another—back and forth between the central processing unit (CPU) and the memory, for example. Each expansion slot on the bus is designed to hold a card, such as a graphics adapter. A new computer usually has empty slots so you can add cards, say, an internal modem, later.

Lots of free *expansion slots* help ensure your computer will serve you well *for a good long time.*

A typical PC will support both the ISA (Industry Standard Architecture) bus and a faster local bus, either called VESA (Video Electronics Standards Association) or PCI (Peripheral Component Interconnect). Although both types offer superior performance, most major computer manufacturers are embracing PCI. As a result, buying a PC that uses the PCI local bus means you'll have more upgrade options as years go by.

Apple remains committed to its own NuBus. But next year, Macs will start accepting PCI cards, too.

CD-ROM drive. Most of the best multimedia programs around are on CD-ROMs. In order to play those shiny discs on your computer, you need at least a double-speed CD-ROM drive. But pass by the faster triple-speed CD drives; nimbler quadruple-speed drives are making them obsolete. Quadruple-speed drives greatly improve full-motion video performance, but the software that takes advantage of their speed hasn't been written yet, so it's hard to justify the extra $200 they'll cost you if you jump to get one today.



Expansion. One of the best ways to ensure your PC will serve you well for a good long time is to make sure it has plenty of expansion slots. If you decide you want a TV tuner card someday, you can add it easily. (Don't mistake an expansion slot for a drive bay—it's not the same thing.)

Make sure any PC has three free ISA slots and two free PCI slots before you seriously consider buying it. On a Mac, look for at least two, and perhaps three free NuBus slots.

Fax/modem. With a modem and an America Online, CompuServe or Prodigy account, you can get the latest gossip about Princess Di, compare notes with wine experts or participate in a slew of other activities from the comfort of your living room.

Nearly all modems today send and receive faxes as well as data. Choose nothing less than a modem that transfers files and exchanges electronic mail at a speed of 9,600 bps (bits per second). Better yet, get a V.32 modem that transfers data back and forth at up to 14,400 bps. For faxes, you want your modem to run at 14,400 bps.

Faster V.34 modems transfer data at a rate of 28,800 bps. But no major on-line service supports this speed yet, so save your money. (For more information on modems, see "Modem*mania*" in the November issue of *HomePC*.)

Graphics adapter. The graphics adapter turns digital information into the numbers, letters and animation you see on your monitor. You want your graphics adapter to match or even exceed the resolution capabilities of your monitor. For the fastest performance on PCs, make sure that the graphics adapter is a type known as a Windows accelerator.

Also make sure you get 1 megabyte (MB) of RAM on the adapter. This will speed up performance and increase the number of colors you can see at high resolutions.

Hard drive. The hard drive is a disk (or disks) sealed inside your computer where you permanently store your games, programs and work. To keep from running out of disk space, get at least a 340-MB drive (a word processor alone can take up more than 30 MB). If it fits your budget, consider buying a 500-MB hard drive, or an even bigger one.

Most PCs have additional drive bays, the space where you can add a second hard disk or devices such as tape backup systems (see "Backup, Backup, Backup!" in the November issue of *HomePC*). Make sure that at least two drive bays are free in case you decide to add devices later. This isn't as important on a Mac because users typically install external second hard drives and backup devices.

Monitor. Choose a 15- or 17-inch non-interlaced color monitor. There are lots of other specifications to consider; to find out more, see "The Shopper's Guide to Monitors" on page 173.

Random access memory (RAM). This is where your programs reside while you're using them, whether you're killing dragons or looking up the word sesquipedelianistic. The more RAM you have, the less time you spend waiting for the next screen of your adventure game. It also means you can run more programs at once.

Many computers come with 4 MB of RAM, but that's not enough. You need at least 8

IBM's Aptiva includes 30-watt speakers.

Some *sound* advice: consider replacing your *speakers*

From Beethoven's soaring symphonies to Peter Gabriel's driving rhythms, CD-quality music is one of the best treats in today's multimedia software. To really

appreciate these sonic sounds, however, you need high-quality speakers.

Unfortunately, many multimedia PCs' speakers don't make the grade, so you may want to buy replacements separately.

The sound card in your computer provides only minimal amplification, so look for speakers that have their own power amplifier—ideally 10 watts or more per channel, though 4 watts is generally adequate. And because the speakers will probably sit next to your computer's monitor, they must be magnetically shielded so they don't distort its color displays.

If you're on a strict budget, two best bets are Koss's $99.95 HD/100 and Yamaha's $149 YST-M10 speakers. (The Yamaha speakers can be beefed up with an optional subwoofer called the YST-W10 for $199.)

If your ears just won't hear of anything less than the best, then consider Altec Lansing's ACS 300.1 or Bose's Acoustimass Multimedia Speaker System.

With two stereo speakers that are shaped like clamshells for better high notes and a lunch-box-sized subwoofer for lower bass notes, the $350 ACS 300.1 system's smooth, accurate sound is an ideal choice for classical music fans.

Listeners who want to pump up the volume for popular music CD-ROMs such as Peter Gabriel's Xplora 1 will like the three-piece Acoustimass system, although at a $699 suggested retail price, it may be a stretch for even a flexible budget. —*R.A.*

MB; it's worth the extra $200 to $300 you'll pay. Ask how much total memory the machine can accept: You may want to upgrade to 16 MB or more if, for example, you start to use desktop publishing software.

Single-piece systems. Some computers build the monitor right into the CPU case. These systems are often packaged with appealing extras, such as a TV tuner card that lets you use your computer to watch your favorite drama programs at the same time you're running your favorite software programs on your monitor. But shop with care—these systems may have a slower processor or come with less RAM than you need. Also, you won't be able to switch the monitor if you later find one you like better, nor can you adjust its tilt for comfortable viewing.

Sound. Sound cards turn the computer's digital signals into music, speech or sound effects. They let you listen to the Moonlight Sonata in a musical program or attach a voice reminder about Mom's lima bean allergy to a recipe file.

Audio is a standard feature on a Mac, but PCs require a sound card that plays and records 16-bit speech and music files known as *.wav* files. You also want Sound Blaster-compatibility for most games.

Another kind of sound file is called a MIDI (Musical Instrument Digital Interface) file. These files don't contain music, but rather hold instructions that tell a synthesizer on the sound card what instruments to simulate. Most sound cards play MIDI files using FM synthesis; this is a good and inexpensive choice if you aren't a music connoisseur. But if you must have the best sound, choose cards that use wave-table synthesizers. These provide more realistic instrument sounds for about $50 to $150 more than cards that use FM synthesis. For clear, crisp sound, you also need a great pair of speakers. To hear more, see "Some Sound Advice," on page 167.

How fast should you go?

One of your most important decisions is how fast your microprocessor, or CPU, should be. This is the computer's brain. It tells the computer how to perform software commands and calculations, and talks to other system hardware. Today's computers typically use processors ranging from slow 486SX chips to faster 486DX2s to ultra-speedy Pentiums and PowerPCs.

The megahertz (MHz) rating of a chip, such as a 25-MHz 486SX or a 90-MHz Pentium, indicates how fast it can go. The higher the MHz is in a particular class of processor—for instance, all 486DX2s—the faster the computer handles tasks. (For more chip chat, see box above.)

Your best bet in chips depends on your budget and whether you'd rather have faster performance or some extras, such as a fast modem or huge hard drive. You may, for example, want to see if you can get a Pentium for less money by buying it with a 500-MB hard disk instead of the advertised 750-MB drive. Or you may want to add memory to a 50-MHz 486DX2 that has 4 MB of RAM.

You may see what seems to be a great deal on a used 386 PC. While the price may be low, it's no bargain. These chips won't run

The Macintosh Performa stresses ease of use.

HOW THE CHIPS STACK UP

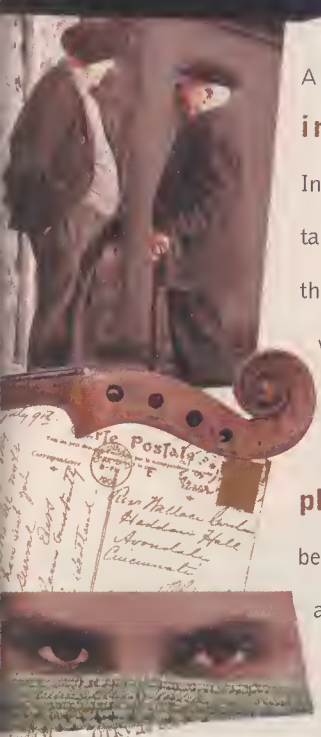
When you shop for a home computer, these are the processors, arranged in order of speed, that you'll probably see on store shelves. This list is based on processors built by Intel for the PC and Motorola for the Mac.

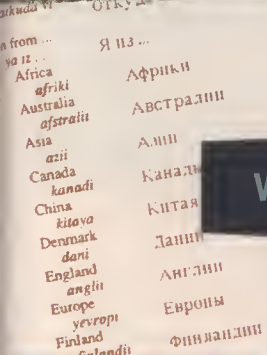
PC	Mac
25-MHz 486SX	33-MHz 68030
33-MHz 486SX	25-MHz 68LC040
50-MHz 486SX2	25-MHz 68040
33-MHz 486DX	33-MHz 68040
50-MHz 486DX2	40-MHz 68040
66-MHz 486DX2	60-MHz PowerPC
75-MHz 486DX4	66-MHz PowerPC
100-MHz 486DX4	80-MHz PowerPC
60-MHz Pentium	110-MHz PowerPC
66-MHz Pentium	
90-MHz Pentium	
100-MHz Pentium	

Welcome to the planet.

virgin's onetribe™

A glimpse into the future of **interactive** programming. International MTV star Pip Dann takes you on a **journey** exploring the people and cultures of our world, from the **origin** of the Maori islanders to the **rituals** of a Tibetan monk. Using **photography** from the world's best libraries, BBC **video** footage and **music** from Peter Gabriel's RealWorld label, One Tribe takes you farther than you can imagine - right from your own home.





virgin's oneworld™ atlas

A stunningly real **trek** around the earth, from Akron, Ohio to the Tasman Sea and beyond. Choose a destination and embark on a **picturesque,** factual tour, exploring the physical planet. A unique **atlas** that practically dances off the screen, OneWorld presents a wealth of **maps** and **information,** all set to a culturally rich **music** track.

west
up
upwards
down
downwards
above, beside
right
right hand side
left
left hand side

Both available on **CD-ROM.**

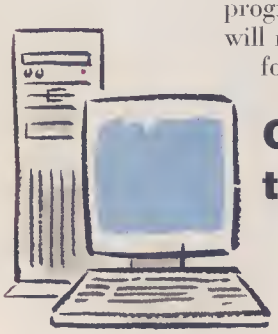
Welcome to **OneTribe** and **OneWorld.**

Welcome to the **planet.**

© 1994 Virgin Sound and Vision. All rights reserved.

the new version of Windows and they don't conform to the MPC (Multimedia PC) Level 2 standard, which outlines the minimum hardware—including processor speed—a PC needs to run today's multimedia software. (Our recommendations in this article meet or exceed this standard.)

Even though 486SX chips are acceptable under the MPC Level 2 standard, steer clear of a system that uses one. While you can find 25-MHz 486SX computers for as little as $1,200, neither today's popular multimedia programs nor your plain old word processor will run very quickly on these machines. And forget about running the software of the future, which will place even greater demands on the CPU.



Of the 486DX chips, the *66-MHz 486 DX2* offers the *best combination* of price and performance.

If you're shopping for a Mac, you'll see models based on 68040 processors for about $1,200 to $1,400. Skip them, too. Apple is gradually switching to the PowerPC, and that's the direction in which Macintosh software companies are going, too.

Good speed, nice price

Lots of PCs occupy the middle of the performance range. For around $2,000, you can buy a computer with 8 MB of RAM, a 500-MB hard disk and one of the 486DX chips.

Of all the 486DXs, the 66-MHz 486DX2 offers the best combination of price and performance. PCs with these chips are reliable and handle today's multimedia software with ease. But newer software will continue to demand more attention from the processor, which will make these PCs seem slow. Most 66-MHz 486DX2 PCs can get faster with processor upgrades, but they'll never run at full Pentium speed. If you need the power, get a Pentium now.

Pentium and PowerPC chips are good choices if you do a lot of mathematical calculations or intensive graphics work. But they're also the computers to pick if you want that little hourglass or stopwatch on your screen to disappear quickly when you're saving a 12-page letter to your dearest friend.

The fastest Pentiums for desktop computers use a 90-MHz chip (the new 100-MHz chip is more appropriate for a large business network). With 8 MB of RAM and a 500-MB hard disk, they cost around $2,400. A 66-MHz Pentium PC with the same amount of memory and just as big a hard disk costs less. Sure, it's noticeably slower, but even so, it's got enough power to let you run the software programs of today and tomorrow. Mail-order companies such as Dell Computer sell complete 66-MHz Pentium PCs for about $2,000.

PowerPC chips offer the fastest performance you can get on a Mac. Pick the 80-MHz or 110-MHz PowerPC if you're a professional graphics artist, but otherwise choose the more reasonably priced 60-MHz or 66-MHz computers. You can find systems using these chips for as little as $2,000. The PowerPC chip really shows its muscle when it's running software specifically written for it, but there isn't very much of that around yet. (If a program is written for the PowerPC, it will loudly proclaim the fact on its box.) But more PowerPC software will soon be available, and in the meantime, all your old Mac programs will run just fine.

Before you take out your checkbook, make sure the price of the computer includes all the basics, including the monitor. For example, many Mac dealers still quote prices that do not include a keyboard or mouse.

Most computers sold today include some free software. Ask if the PC or Mac you're considering comes with an integrated program that includes a word processor and spreadsheet or some CD-ROM software.

Also, make sure the manufacturer provides good technical support. Toll-free phone help that's available 24 hours a day—weekends, too—can save you hours of frustration. A good warranty covers your system for three years.

AST's Adventure answers your phone calls.

Shopping for a computer means doing some homework. But when you find a great computer that will last you for years, you'll be glad you completed the assignment. •

Robert J. Atkinson is a New York-based writer.

Panasonic's new PFC Panasonic PRINTER FAX COPIER

PLAIN & SIMPLE.

Plain paper laser quality printer.

The PFC takes up less desk space than an 8½" x 11" sheet of paper and gives you a 4PPM page printer with 300 DPI resolution. It's whisper quiet, has 2MB user-definable RAM, and is HP PCL4 compatible.

Plain paper personal copier.

For convenient copying, the PFC comes with a multi-copy function, auto document feed and crisp 300 DPI resolution output.

Plain paper fax.

To fax, simply plug the PFC right into your telephone. It comes complete with fax/tel auto switch, 18 page memory* (expandable to 104 pages) and a telephone answering machine interface.

Plain to see why you should buy one.

At under $1000, Panasonic's PFC prints, faxes, copies...and saves. In fact, you won't find a more affordable way to get all the office equipment you need. And all the office space you need.

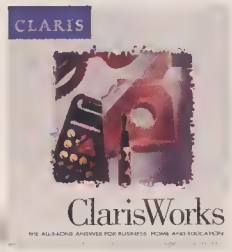
Panasonic Office Automation OA

For the authorized Panasonic® dealer nearest you call
1-800-742-8086

*Based on ITU-T No. 1 test chart with standard resolution.
All other brand and company/product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective companies.

PFC-HPC

Got the nagging feeling your computer should do more?



Now it can.

New ClarisWorks 3.0 software for Windows. Relax. Your home computer is capable of a lot more than blasting away at alien forces and saving the world from impending doom. Get ClarisWorks® 3.0 and it'll easily conquer all your household tasks, too.

ClarisWorks is the indispensable choice because it perfectly integrates all the functionality of six software applications—word processing, presentations, spreadsheet & charting, database, drawing, and painting—into one streamlined, responsive program that get things done fast. Even better, it's so intuitive and easy to use, everyone in the family can pick it up and use it right away. So after your kids finish defending the planet, they can put a dent in their homework.

With ClarisWorks, you can dash off letters and school reports. Print envelopes and mailing labels. Update the family budget. Design neighborhood newsletters and party invitations. Organize lists and recipes. Add colorful drawings and paintings to homemade greeting cards, and much more.

If you need help with a document, let new Claris Assistants step in to do the tough part for you. Assistants guide you through involved tasks like creating tables, and give expert advice on designing newsletters, presentations and more. You'll also find 150 push-button "Shortcuts" that simplify multistep tasks to a single mouse click.

And if you need to use your Microsoft Word or WordPerfect, Excel or Lotus 1-2-3 files from the office, ClarisWorks instantly opens and saves these formats and many more.

Don't let that nagging feeling get the best of you, get ClarisWorks instead—and save your home from an intergalactic takeover. See your Claris dealer, or call us to order now.

Free with your order!

Buy ClarisWorks 3.0 before April 30, 1995 and get seven fonts, 75 clip art images and SofNet's FaxWorks (a $29 value for faxing directly from your faxmodem) absolutely free!

$69†

1 800 293 0617 ext. 454

Also available for Macintosh. Call for pricing and special offers.

†Special price available in the U.S. only. Offer expires April 30, 1995. Available in Canada for $99 by calling 800-361-6075. Pricing subject to change. Price and terms available when purchased direct from Claris only. Tax and shipping costs are additional. Reseller price and terms may vary. © 1994 Claris Corporation. All rights reserved. Claris, ClarisWorks and the ClarisWorks design are registered trademarks, and Simply powerful software is a trademark of Claris Corporation. All other trademarks are property of their respective owners.

CLARIS®

Simply powerful software.™

the shopper's guide to monitors

by robert j. atkinson

The greatest software in the world and the fastest chip to run it can't overcome a fuzzy screen. Look here for the scoop on picking a clear winner.

You can hook up the world's greatest amplifier to your stereo, but without a pair of top-notch speakers to go with it, you'll never mistake your living room for Carnegie Hall. Similarly, you can buy the latest and greatest computer, but unless you also have a sharp, clear monitor, you're going to wonder why everybody's making such a fuss about those "thrilling" video clips in multimedia software. Even if multimedia isn't the main reason you use your computer, a good monitor is still important. Staring at fuzzy text and graphics for a few hours can give you one splitting headache.

If you've been using your computer steadily for a few years, you may need a new monitor; screen display tends to lose its brightness and focus over time. If you're shopping for a brand-new computer, you'll find that complete packages often include a no-frills 14-inch monitor that displays grainy images. In most cases, when you buy a new computer, the monitor that comes with the package is a separate component that can be

Illustrations by Nishan Akgulian

The 17-inch Nanao FlexScan F550iW

replaced for an additional fee. If it's within your budget, it's worth spending a couple of hundred dollars more to get a monitor with a better picture.

If you're shopping for a color monitor, you'll find lots of models from which to choose for both IBM PC-compatibles and Macintoshes. (Monochrome monitors are about as rare these days as black-and-white TV sets.) While some monitors are designed specifically for a PC or Mac, most models today connect to either kind of computer, although Mac owners may need an extra adapter. Some monitor manufacturers offer free adapters, others charge as much as $30 for one.

With so many monitors available, how do you decide which one is right for you? The monitor-buying tips that follow will ensure that you take home a monitor that meets your needs. Also, take a look at the charts below for a selection of some of the leading 15- and 17-inch monitors, all of which will be easy on your eyes.

How big is big enough?

Your first decision is what size monitor, often called a display, you need. The most common monitor sizes for the home are 14, 15 or 17 inches. That diagonal measurement represents the total size of the front of a monitor's glass cathode-ray tube (CRT)—not the total size of the image you see. A 15-inch monitor, for example, typically has a visible image of 13.4 to 14 inches diagonally, while a 17-inch monitor usually has a viewable area of around 15.4 to16 inches.

Two inches may not sound as if it would make much of a difference, but a 17-inch monitor actually gives you about a 28 percent bigger picture than a 15-inch display. A 17-inch monitor lets you open more windows at once and still view them all at a comfortable size. For example, you could line up the three

Monitoring *the field:* a sampling of what *you'll see* as you shop

15-inch monitors

ADI MicroScan 4GP
ADI Systems
(800) 228-0530, (408) 944-0100
$490 (estimated street price)

Offers many of the features found on more expensive displays for less than $500. It includes resolutions up to 1,024 by 768 pixels at 76 Hz and simple digital controls, and it comes with a two-year warranty.

MAG DX15F
MAG InnoVision
(800) 827-3998, (714) 751-2008
$439

A bargain given its ability to support a 76-Hz refresh rate at resolutions up to 1,024 by 768, its digital distortion controls and its Energy Star and MPR II compliance. An LED (light emitting diode) readout shows the resolution you're using.

Nanao FlexScan F340iW
Nanao USA
(800) 800-5202, (310) 325-5202
$676

It's not the least expensive 15-inch monitor around, but it has all the trimmings: a 76-Hz refresh rate at resolutions up to 1,024 by 768, digital controls, Energy Star and MPR II compliance, controls to adjust color for printouts and distortion correction.

NEC MultiSync XE15
NEC Technologies
(800) 632-4636, (508) 264-8000
$575 (estimated street price)

On-screen controls customize the color, size and position of images. A "plug and play" feature optimizes performance upon installation, so you don't have to change settings in your graphics driver. It has a 76-Hz refresh rate at a resolution of 1,024 by 768 pixels.

Nokia Multigraph 449E
Nokia Display
(800) 296-6542, (415) 331-0322
$630

Boasts one of the brightest images in this category. Includes digital controls, a crisp resolution of up to 1,024 by 768 pixels at 75 Hz and Energy Star compliance.

Sony Multiscan 15sf
Sony Electronics
(800) 352-7669
$569.95

This model uses Sony's Trinitron tube, comes with digital controls and delivers a solid 14-inch picture at 76 Hz in resolutions up to1,024 by 768 pixels. Thrifty shoppers will find excellent discounted prices on this model in larger retail outlets.

ViewSonic 15G
ViewSonic
(800) 888-8583, (909) 869-7976
$465

Contains a selection of digital controls, Energy Star and MPR II compliance and a vertical refresh rate of 76 Hz in resolutions up to 1,024 by 768 pixels.

All prices are suggested retail unless otherwise noted.

most recent copies of your family newsletter side by side to pick your favorite page design.

But before you decide to buy a 17-inch monitor, make sure you have enough room on your desk to accommodate it. These displays gobble up space; they measure up to 20 inches deep and weigh as much as 60 pounds. Then consider your budget—a good price for a high-quality 17-inch model in stores or through mail-order houses ranges from $800 to about $1,000, but prices are often quite a bit higher.

A 15-inch monitor is a better fit if space is at a premium, and it gives you more valuable screen real estate than a 14-inch display for only a little more money. You can buy a good 15-inch monitor for about $400 to $800.

Once you decide what size monitor fits your desk and budget, here are some other important features to consider:

Resolution. This refers to the amount of image detail you see on screen and is measured in pixels, or picture elements. Pixels are tiny spots of light; all computer images are created with pixels. The more of them there are, the higher the resolution and the sharper images look on screen.

Today's monitors support at least 640 by 480 pixels (you may see this measure referred to as VGA, or Video Graphics Array). To run Windows programs on a 15-inch monitor, you want 800 by 600 pixels (or SVGA, for Super Video Graphics Array); for a Mac, you want 832 by 624 pixels. (Most DOS programs run in VGA mode automatically unless you install special software.) Clear resolution on a 17-inch monitor for a PC with Windows or a Mac is 1,024 by 768 pixels.

Manufacturers usually list the highest resolution a particular monitor can handle, but that doesn't mean it's the resolution you want to use. If you go any higher than the recommended resolutions, you may need a magnifying glass to see what's on screen. As resolution increases, everything you see on screen shrinks a little. On a 15-inch monitor set for 1,024 by 768 pixels, icons, text and everything else appear noticeably smaller than they would on a 17-inch monitor running at that same resolution, simply because the smaller monitor is trying to fit the same amount of pixel information into less space.

To adjust the monitor resolution, choose the Setup icon in Windows or the Monitors

17-inch monitors

Apple Multiple Scan 17 Display
Apple Computer
(800) 538-9696, (408) 996-1010
$1,069

Features a Sony Trinitron tube, 16-inch viewable screen, Energy Star compliance and a 72 Hz refresh rate at 1,024 by 768 pixel resolution. It can go up to 1,280 by 1,024 resolution, but only at 60 Hz.

IBM 17P
IBM
(800) 772-2227
$1,199

Supports a refresh rate of 77 Hz in 1,280 by 1,024 resolution and a full 100 Hz at 1,024 by 768 for a steady and stable image. Features include digital controls, Energy Star compliance and a three-year warranty.

Nanao FlexScan F550iW
Nanao USA
(800) 800-5202, (310) 325-5202
$1,099

Nanao's top-of-the-line monitors are well known for quality. This model features a sharp image and supports a refresh rate of 80 Hz at 1,024 by 768 resolution. Nanao backs it all up with a three-year warranty.

NEC MultiSync XE17
NEC Technologies
(800) 632-4636, (508) 264-8000
$999 (estimated street price)

A market leader for many years, NEC has a well-deserved reputation for building reliable, durable displays. This model boasts on-screen controls, the same "plug and play" feature as its 15-inch counterpart and a maximum 76 Hz refresh rate in 1,024 by 768 mode.

Nokia Multigraph 447X
Nokia Display
(800) 296-6542, (415) 331-0322
$1,199

Despite an above-average price, an excellent choice with a flicker-free 76-Hz refresh rate at 1,280 by 1,024 resolution, precise distortion controls and on-screen menus.

Sony MultiScan 17sf
Sony Electronics
(800) 352-7669
$999

Includes an active viewing area of 16.1 inches and color controls. It's Energy Star-compliant and can deliver a 76-Hz refresh rate at 1,024 by 768 pixels. A new case makes it less bulky than the company's previous 17-inch displays.

Radius PrecisionColor Display/17
Radius
(800) 227-2795, (408) 434-1010
$1,299

Well suited for desktop publishing and graphics work. Its Sony Trinitron tube achieves a sharp image at a 75-Hz refresh rate at resolutions up to 1,280 by 1,024 pixels. Digital controls include distortion adjustments.

icon in the Mac control panel. The graphics adapter communicates all the important resolution and color information to the monitor. Without it, your monitor won't be able to display any image at all. Make sure that the monitor you're considering and the graphics adapter in your computer both are able to handle the same resolutions. If you already own a computer, look in its graphics adapter manual, or in your computer manual under the heading Graphics or Video Adapter. If you're buying a brand-new system, ask the salesperson.

Flicker. While we take for granted that the image on our screen remains the same until we change it, in reality the image is constantly being redrawn, or refreshed, right before our eyes. If the monitor doesn't redraw the screen fast enough, the image can flicker, which can cause eyestrain.

To control flicker, look for a monitor with stated resolutions in the non-interlaced mode. This means that all horizontal lines are painted on screen in a single sweep for a steady-looking image.

You also want the monitor to refresh the picture as fast as possible. The vertical refresh rate tells you the number of times per second the screen image is redrawn. A monitor's vertical refresh rate is represented in Hz (hertz). Most people perceive flicker when the vertical refresh drops to 60 Hz—that is, 60 redraws per second—or lower. The Video Electronics Standards Association (VESA), an industry organization, currently recommends a 75-Hz vertical refresh rate at all non-interlaced resolutions from 640 by 480 pixels up to 1,280 by 1,024 pixels, although 72 Hz is considered acceptable. Once again, be sure that the graphics adapter in your PC or Mac can deliver those rates, too (look in the manual under Display Modes).

Dot pitch. The only other technical specification that really matters is the monitor's dot pitch, which is the distance, measured in millimeters (mm), between any two tiny dots of the same colored phosphor (red, green or blue) inside the monitor's glass cathode-ray tube. The smaller the distance between dots, the sharper the image you'll see. Look for a dot pitch of 0.28 mm or smaller.

Controls. A monitor's controls let you change the brightness, contrast and size of the image, as well as choose variables such as how you want the image centered on the screen. On more expensive monitors, you may also find a degaussing control for dispersing electromagnetic interference, which can distort color, and convergence controls for fine-tuning the focus of your image.

On 15-inch monitors, you typically find a mix of analog (dials) and digital (usually push-button) controls right under the screen. Most 17-inch monitors come with a full array of digital controls that also sit under the screen.

Digital controls usually work in conjunction with a microprocessor chip inside the monitor. The main advantage of digital controls is that you can choose and then save your display settings. If you've ever switched from a DOS-based game into Word for Windows and noticed that you suddenly couldn't see the title bar, you'll appreciate this ability to save separate size and position settings for DOS and Windows programs.

On some models, changing settings involves a lot of twiddling dials or pressing one button to cycle through adjustment options and then another to alter the size or centering

You can look at *specifications* when you shop for a monitor, but in the end you've simply got to *trust your own eyes.*

The 15-inch Viewsonic 15G

Our problem is *people are always forgetting we exist.* You see, we make hard drives that are *A.) easy to install and B.) reliable.* So once you've experienced the initial joy of easy installation, there's little reason to remember us. The disk drive doesn't crash. There aren't any problems. You're free to have a life while we slip quietly into oblivion. Then you can go out and become an avid bowler. (Or whatever.)

[*You'll have a ball with our hard drives.*]

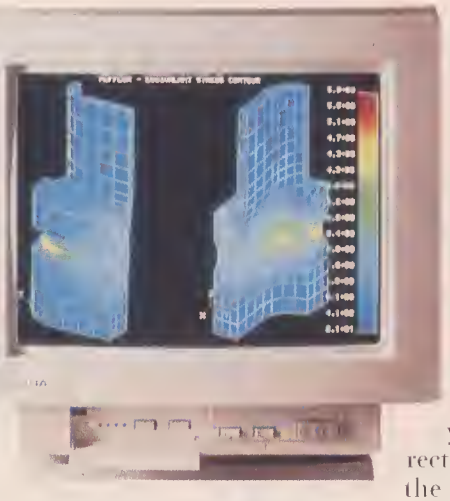
THIS IS OUR PRODUCT AND THIS IS WHY IT'S SO *GOOD. It has a range of capacities from 210 to 540 MBs, an unprecedented three-year warranty, and is surprisingly simple to install. It's even won all the awards pictured below.*

Caviar [PC WORLD] Computer Shopper Best Buy of 1993 [CHANNEL CHAMPION 1993] ENHANCED IDE

WESTERN DIGITAL CAVIAR *The drive for perfection.*

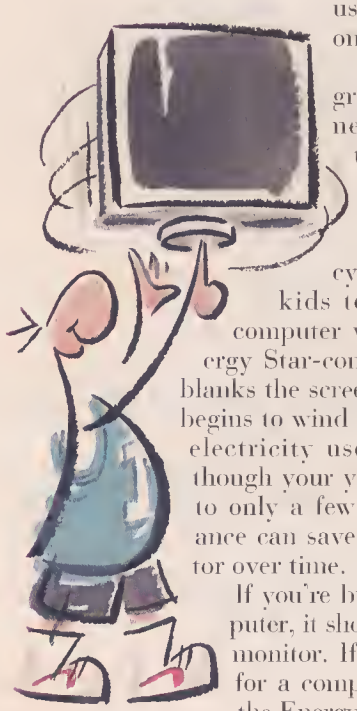
Call us: 1-800-568-9272. Fax Back Literature: 1-714-932-4300. Distributor: 1-800-MERISEL. *©1994 Western Digital Corporation. Caviar is a trademark of Western Digital.*

of an image. State-of-the-art monitors allow you to use on-screen menus, such as those found on TV sets, to change the settings. The monitor's digital controls let you roam through these menus (just as you can meander through a TV's settings with your remote control), and the on-screen information is clearer than the truncated labels on push buttons. Some manufacturers go one step further and bypass the buttons on a monitor altogether. Instead, they let you change settings using software they supply, along with your mouse or keyboard.



The 15-inch Nokia Multigraph 449E

Emissions and energy efficiency. Remember how your mother always told you not to sit too close to the TV or radiation would seep into your brain? Well, it's impractical to sit five or more feet away from your monitor, which gives off extremely low frequency (ELF) and very low frequency (VLF) electromagnetic emissions. Scientists are still divided over how harmful these emissions are, or if they're even harmful at all. To be safe, choose a monitor that meets the Swedish government's minimum standard for low emissions, called MPR II, or one that complies with an even stricter European rating known as TCO. This information is usually clearly labeled in ads or on the monitors.



You're also likely to see a green Energy Star logo on many new monitors. This indicates that the model consumes less than 30 watts of power when idle, in accord with the Environmental Protection Agency's standard. So if you or your kids tend to walk away from the computer without turning it off, an Energy Star-compliant monitor automatically blanks the screen and—after a few minutes—begins to wind down from about 100 watts of electricity use to less than 10 watts. Although your yearly cost savings will amount to only a few dollars, Energy Star compliance can save wear and tear on your monitor over time.

If you're buying a new Energy Star computer, it should work with any Energy Star monitor. If you're buying a new monitor for a computer that doesn't comply with the Energy Star standard, look for models that include software that powers them down to consume less electricity, or for models that use less power when a screen saver pops up.

Making a choice

You can pull together a host of specifications to help you narrow your choices. But in the end, base your decision on what your own eyes tell you. If you're buying direct from a manufacturer over the phone, visit a computer store first to get a look at the monitors you're considering.

Most monitors come with an antiglare coating so you don't stare back at an image of yourself. Look closely to make sure that the monitor you like is neither a reflecting pond nor too dull: It's best to do this against a plain black or white background. Is the image bright enough compared with the image on other monitors of the same size?

Don't just look at the pretty pictures the computer demo throws up on screen. Ask the salesperson to let you see small text in a word processing program. Are the letters clear and distinct or are there gray areas between closely spaced text? Look at a spreadsheet program, too. Are the vertical lines on the screen straight or do they bow out toward the edges or curve in toward the center of the screen? Are there controls to adjust these flaws?

When you get the monitor home, check it out carefully. Unlike most computer hardware, monitors are particularly susceptible to minor manufacturing variations. And because of their sensitive components, they can easily be damaged in transport. Plug in the monitor and let it warm up for about 30 minutes, then look closely at a word processor or spreadsheet screen. If parts of the screen appear to be brighter than the rest, or if you see discolored areas on what's supposed to be a completely white background, your monitor may have been jostled in transit. Be sure you get a money-back guarantee or a warranty that includes a next-day replacement policy before you buy to avoid headaches later.

A monitor truly is your window to the world—the world of electronic communications, exciting multimedia games and everyday PC activities, such as financial management. A good monitor will keep your world bright, sharp and clear. •

OUR WORLD IS GRAND AND FULL OF COLOR.

PICTURE IT ON AN AMDEK MONITOR!

Whether your business is "at the office" or with your family at home, Amdek can help you and your family display the best of our world's grandeur and dazzling color. Amdek introduced the industry's first PC video monitor in 1978 and has been successfully providing display solutions with crisp, rich images at very competitive prices for over fifteen years. The AM/815E and AM/817E color Amdek monitors meet the stringent Swedish MPR-II low radiation emission guidelines and the VESA DPMS Energy Star power savings standard to help protect you and conserve our world's energy. Amdek "Direct" offers great prices, a 30-day "no questions asked" money back guarantee, toll-free technical support, and a standard one year warranty with available extended warranty programs. Amdek also has special programs for resellers, state and local government, and educational and corporate accounts. You will find that Amdek "Direct" can deliver the best combination of great prices, proven support, and feature rich monitors right to your door! Give us a call today.

Amdek Family of Display Products

	AM/432E	AM/732E	AM/732NI	AM/815E	AM/817E
Screen Size	14"FS VGA Mono	14" SVGA Color	14" SVGA Color	15"FS SVGA Color	17"FS Hi-Res Color
Max Resolution	640x480	1024x768	1024x768NI	1280x1024NI	1600x1200NI
Max Refresh Rate	70 Hz	70 Hz	90 Hz	90 Hz	105 Hz
Horizontal Scan Fre	31.5KHz	31.5, 35.2, 35.5KHz	30KHz-57KHz	30KHz-64KHz	24KHz-82KHz
Dot Pitch	N/A	.28mm	.28mm	.28mm	.26mm
110-240 VAC (Auto-sensing)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
MPR II Compliant	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
Energy Star Compliant	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
PIN Cushion Control	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
*Amdek "Direct" Price	$102	$249	$269	$379	$799

To Order Call Toll Free:
1-800-72-AMDEK
Call For Volume Discounts
FAX #:1-800-74-AMDEK
State and local government, educational and corporate accounts can contact their Amdek sales representative at 1-800-79-AMDEK.

AMDEK
VALUE THROUGH THE YEARS

*Amdek "Direct" accepts Visa, Mastercard, or cashier's check. Trade accounts are available with credit limits and terms. Shipping and applicable sales tax not included in the price. All prices, offers and specifications are subject to change without notice. Any return being shipped to an Amdek location will require an RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization) number. Original packaging and proof of purchase required to return any merchandise. Amdek is a registered trademark of Wyse Technology Inc. Monitor image provided courtesy of NASA. The EPA Energy Star℠ emblem does not represent EPA endorsement of any product or service. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners and are used for identification purposes only. ©1994 Wyse Technology Inc.

MEMORY NOT INCLUDED

You're all set to play your great new DOS game when suddenly the screen message hits you: Insufficient Memory. Here are three winning strategies to get your game up and running.

by **Jeremy Schlosberg**

Your 4-year-old daughter rips the paper off the box so fast you wonder why you bothered to wrap it. Her face lights up: Fatty Bear's Birthday Surprise, the DOS-based game she's been dreaming about for weeks.

She makes the shrink wrap disappear even more quickly than the gift wrap; the disks, manual and activity booklet tumble out and you leave the other presents for later. It's time for fun with Fatty Bear. You pop the disk in the drive, take a quick peek in the manual, note the seemingly simple installation instructions (*phew!*) and begin typing the appropriate commands. Your daughter hangs on your every keystroke.

But instead of a cuddly bear popping up on-screen, you get a decidedly uncuddly message: Out of Memory. "Impossible!" you exclaim. "I have 8 megabytes!"

The timing couldn't be worse for you to discover one nasty little fact about your PC. It categorizes random access memory (RAM) in different ways, and programs for DOS—still the operating system of choice for games, despite the popularity of Windows—almost always run in only one section of that memory. This section is 640 kilobytes (K or KB), and can't be made bigger, no matter how loudly you yell at your computer. Even if you have 16 or 32 megabytes (MB) of RAM, you still get only the first 640K of memory for most DOS-based programs.

But according to the manual, Fatty Bear requires only 550K of RAM. And you haven't loaded any other programs that might take up memory, so this problem is a mystery, right? Well, not exactly. A lot of elements vie for space in that 640K whenever you boot up, or start, your PC, including DOS itself and special software called

Illustrations by Mark Rosenthal

CAT FOOD
ROSENTHAL

Just as you can solve a battery problem by buying a package of AA's, you can overcome memory snags.

drivers that allows you to use, for example, your mouse or CD-ROM drive. Terminate and Stay Resident (TSR) programs, such as anti-virus software, also may be nibbling away at your memory; unless you remove them, TSRs stay in RAM every time you run your computer.

And you thought nothing could be worse than finding out on Christmas morning that you don't have batteries to run your kids' new toys! But just as you can solve the battery problem by going to the store and buying a package of AA's, you can overcome PC memory snags without too much bother. Before we show you how, it helps to know a little more about what causes the problem in the first place.

A walk down memory lane

In the early 1980s, the IBM engineers who designed the PCs that became the model for many of today's home computers decided that the machine wouldn't need to access more than 1 MB of memory. At the time, it was considered unlikely that anyone would need to use that much memory, so they split it at the 640K point. The first 640K, used by DOS-based programs, is known as *conventional memory*. The other 384K is called *upper memory* (to find out why 1 MB is 1,024K and not 1,000K, see box at right). Upper memory is reserved by the computer for special uses, including some basic graphics functions.

When it became clear that 1 MB wasn't enough, *expanded memory* was born. Today, most PCs use *extended memory*, a more-efficient way to add memory. If you have 8 MB of RAM, 7 MB typically will be extended memory. All memory beyond 1 MB is mostly helpful to newer operating environments, such as Windows, and to Windows programs; unlike DOS, Windows knows how to make use of extended and expanded memory. If all you run are Windows programs or you use a Macintosh, your main memory problems most likely will be caused by having too many programs open at once, not by trying to load a single game. In most cases, you can easily solve the problem by closing some of your programs or file windows.

You may be beginning to sense that memory is one of the murkier swamps of techno-gobbledygook in the computing universe. But knowing the difference between upper memory and conventional memory is the first step to solving your Christmas morning problem with Fatty Bear. There are a few basic methods that will free up more of the 640K block of memory that your DOS-based games need to run. You can create a "boot disk," set up several ways to boot up your system or install memory manager software.

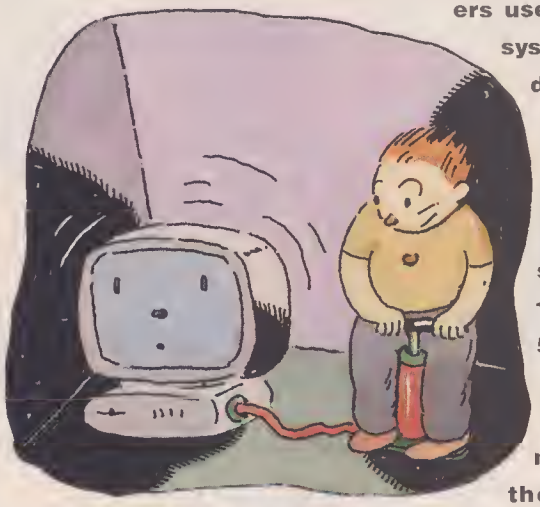
Solution 1: Give your system the boot

One of the easiest ways to solve your DOS memory problem is to create a boot disk. When you insert a boot disk in the A: drive and press your computer's reset button, the system will come up, but it will bypass your usual startup procedure, leaving enough memory free to handle your DOS-based games.

In fact, many memory-intensive games provide a "create boot disk" option as part of their installation procedure. If a game doesn't automatically create a boot disk for you, it may include printed documentation recommending how you can

A *byte-sized* math lesson: 1,000 = 1,024

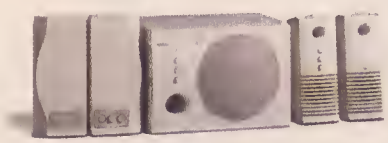
You're scraping and clawing for every last byte of conventional memory to play your DOS-based game. Finally you free up 550,912 bytes, more, you figure, than the 550 kilobytes you need. After all, K is short for kilo, kilo usually means 1,000, so 550K stands for 550,000 bytes, right? So how come your stubborn computer still isn't satisfied?



The trouble is that in computerese, K actually means the number 1,024, because computers use the base 2, or binary, system, not the base 10, or decimal, system to which we're accustomed. To figure out how many bytes you really need to satisfy the request for, say, 550K, multiply 550 x 1,024 for a total of 563,200 bytes.

Similarly, there are 1,024K, not 1,000K, in 1 megabyte (MB). One MB, therefore, is 1,048,576 bytes, which you get by multiplying 1,024 by K (the number 1,024). That's why the 640K in your conventional memory and the remaining 384K in upper memory add up to 1,024K, or 1 MB. —*J.S.*

Concert. Sound. System.



The house lights dim. The spotlight shines. And soon the music surrounds you.

But the concert hall is your desktop, the spotlight on your computer, and the music a spectrum of sound emanating from a multimedia speaker system like you've never heard before.

That is the experience awaiting you—with Yamaha's YST-M10 and new YST-M5 powered monitor speakers...and the new YST-MSW10 subwoofer.

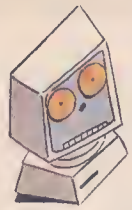
Fully shielded compact speakers that deliver unparalleled audio depth, breadth, and quality... for PCs and Macs, game systems, portable CD players, and more. The only speakers designed not just for PC sound but for music. Real music.

If you know anything about Yamaha's award-winning sound technology, don't just imagine what these speakers can do. Demand them.

Because if you want concert sound from your system, you want a speaker system that puts sound in the limelight. And that leaves you with only one choice.

YAMAHA

Yamaha Computer Related Products, 6600 Orangethorpe Avenue, Buena Park, CA 90620, Telephone: 1-800-333-4442, Facsimile: (714) 228-3913 *©1994 by Yamaha Corporation of America. All rights reserved. Yamaha, YST, and the Yamaha logo are registered trademarks of Yamaha Corporation of America. All other product names and trademarks are the property of their respective owners.*



The quickest, easiest way to solve a memory problem for a single DOS game is to create a boot disk.

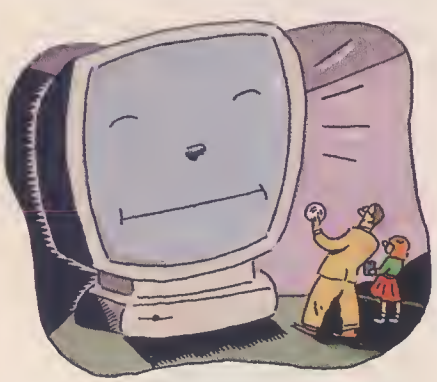
create a boot disk for that game.

Using an automatic boot disk option or following printed instructions to create a boot disk manually will solve a memory problem for a particular program, but if you have a lot of games it may be frustrating to keep track of a boot disk for each of them. A single, carefully made boot disk should be able to do the job for several games just as effectively. Follow these steps to create your boot disk:

Step 1. Insert a blank disk in the A: drive. If the disk is not formatted, type *format a: /s* at the DOS command-line prompt, then hit the Enter key. This formats the disk and gives it basic information from your DOS directory, such as the files *command.com* and *io.sys*, that your computer needs to start up. If the disk is already formatted, just type *sys a:* at the DOS command-line prompt and hit Enter to transfer the basic system information.

You've just created a bare-bones, bootable disk. If you use this disk at startup, you'll have lots of memory free, but such a no-frills boot won't help if your games require a CD-ROM drive, mouse or stereo sound.

If that's the case, you have to add customized *autoexec.bat* and *config.sys* files to the boot disk. The *autoexec.bat* file contains the commands you want carried out when you start your system, such



as which programs and drivers to load; much of the *config.sys* file contains commands that configure, or set up, hardware such as mice and keyboards. But they both eat up free conventional memory, because the instructions in these files tell the computer to load specialized software drivers and other elements that use a chunk of your free memory. You want to add only enough of this information to let you play your games.

Just remember that you aren't going to do anything to the *autoexec.bat* and *config.sys* files on your hard disk—you're making changes only to those files on the boot disk.

Step 2. To create an *autoexec.bat* file on your boot disk, use the DOS Editor; type *edit* at the DOS command-line prompt and hit Enter to get there. Choose the File option from the DOS Editor main menu and select New. Save the file—there doesn't have to be anything in it yet—as *a:\autoexec.bat*.

Step 3. Call up your system's *autoexec.bat* file from within the DOS Editor. Select Open from the File menu and type *c:\autoexec.bat*.

Step 4. Now you're ready to look for and copy instructions from the *autoexec.bat* file on your hard disk to the *autoexec.bat* file on your boot disk. Copy the lines listed below to the boot disk's *autoexec.bat* file in the same order they appear in your *autoexec.bat* file. (The order in your system may differ from the order in which we list the lines below.)

- Copy the line(s) that have the words *cd-rom* or *mscdex* (or both) to activate your CD-ROM drive.
- Copy the line(s) with the word "mouse" to activate your mouse.
- You may have to poke around to find the lines that activate sound. Look for the word *sound*, *blaster*, *audio* or *vol*; copy as many of them as you can find to the boot disk.
- Copy the *path* command line. Paths show the system which directories to search for exeeutable files (the ones that start your programs); the *path* command line will look something like:

path c:\; c:\dos; c:\word; c:\123.

Step 5. Create a *config.sys* file on the boot disk, the same way you created an *autoexec.bat* file. Save this file as *a:\config.sys*.

Step 6. Call up your system's *config.sys* file from within the DOS Editor. Select Open from the File menu and type *c:\config.sys*.

Step 7. Make sure these two statements sit at the very top of the file:

device=c:\dos\himem.sys
device=c:\dos\emm386.exe noems (if

you have a 386 or faster computer).

Do not copy lines to your boot disk's *config.sys* file that may trigger other memory eaters. Such lines often also begin with the phrase *device=* and include the extension *.sys* or *.exe* in the file name (for example: *device = c:\nav\nav_.sys*). This loads the virus intercept capabilities of a program called Norton AntiVirus.

Copy to your boot disk's *config.sys* file any lines from the hard disk's *config.sys* file that feature one of the magic words we noted when we talked about your *autoexec.bat* file—for example, *mouse*, *blaster* or a reference to your CD-ROM drive.

Step 8. Create a *buffers=* statement on your boot disk. Buffers refer to how much memory DOS reserves for transferring information to and from disks. The

Now priced under $300!

Is the Cyrix 386-to-486 Upgrade Chip really that good? Just ask anybody.

"Simply plug in the Cyrix 486 upgrade to a 386 motherboard and you'll crank up performance by better than 60%..."

–*PC Computing, November 1993*[3]

"This Cyrix upgrade is easily fitted in 15 min, and then the user is up and running with all the old software and data files unaffected. There is no learning curve or disruption for the user–it is only necessary to get used to the fact that the computer does everything twice as fast as before."

–*Personal Computer Magazine (UK), November 1993*

"The Cyrix Cx486SRx² 386SX upgrade chip cleverly does something which everyone thought was impossible...a single-chip upgrade for 386SX machines..."

–*Personal Computer Magazine (UK), January 1994*

"True to the company's word, we found Cyrix's DRx² an easy upgrade that can deliver a performance boost (to your) wheezy old 386."

–*Computer Shopper, February 1994*[1]

"... MVP FINALIST ... 1994 WIN AWARD W 100 WINDOWS MAGAZINE ... BYTE ... COMPUTE SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY AWARD FINALIST ..."

"Priced at under $300, the upgrade will nearly double the performance of that creaky old 386SX a few of you still use."

–*PC Magazine, February 8, 1994*[1]

"Another potentially interested Cyrix customer is the corporate buyer... The buyer's budget can't handle 20 new 486-class PCs, and there isn't the time to do motherboard swaps on all of them, either. Enter Cyrix and the quick-and-easy 40-65 percent performance-boost solution."

–*Computer Shopper, February 1994*[1]

"Cyrix's clever design makes it possible to upgrade nearly any 386 in existence, without hassle or high cost...All you need is a fast, affordable upgrade for an office of 386s. The Cyrix Cx486SRx² is it. Just plug it into your s386 system and go."

–*PC Computing, December 1993*[3]

"Cyrix has developed inexpensive upgrade chips for 386-class personal computers...and the effect will be like dropping a Corvette engine into a Ford Escort...We decided to try one of the Cyrix chips. The result was impressive...Think about how much a small company could save."

–*Barry Cooper, The Orlando Sentinel, February 10, 1994*

"...dropping in a Cyrix Cx486DRx² Upgrade Microprocessor is a quick way to really push performance."

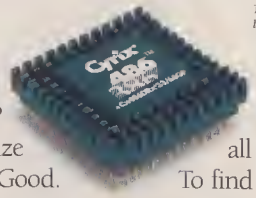
–*WordPerfect the Magazine, December 1993*

"Cyrix's solution is simple. You remove the existing 386 chip from its socket, plug in the Cx486DRx² and run some software."

–*PC Magazine, October 13, 1993*[3]

"...Cyrix gives new life to older 386SX- and 386DX-based computers...This may be the best upgrade solution we've seen yet for users of older machines who don't want to shell out $1,500 or more to move into a new 486-based system."

–*Windows Magazine, The Win 100: The Best Windows Products of the Year, February 1994*[3]



Can't afford a 486 computer? Want to run Windows efficiently? Need to keep and utilize all your current programs? Good. To find out which Cyrix® 386-to-486 Upgrade Microprocessor™ you need, check the chart to the left.

If you need more help, ask your dealer or call us at 1-800-46-CYRIX for our free Upgrade Demo Disk. See–the Cyrix 386-to-486 Upgrade Microprocessor really is that good.

Now aren't you glad you asked? **Cyrix instead™**

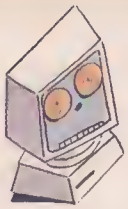
Your 386 Model	The Upgrade You Need	Suggested List Price
DX 16, 20 & 25 MHz	DRx² 25/50	$249
DX 33 MHz	DRx² 33/66	$299
SX 16, 20 & 25 MHz	SRx² 25/50	$249

We have a 386-to-486 Upgrade Microprocessor for most 386 machines.

MICROSOFT WINDOWS COMPATIBLE

yes It runs with NetWare

©1994 Cyrix Corporation, Richardson, TX, (214) 994-8388. Cyrix is a registered trademark, and Cyrix instead is a trademark of Cyrix Corporation. [1]©1994 Ziff-Davis Publishing Company L.P. [2]©1993 Ziff-Davis Publishing Company L.P. [3]©1994 CMP Publications, Inc. All quotes reprinted with permission. All other brand or product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. Novell makes no warranties with respect to this product. Developer Tested Only.



If you don't want to juggle boot disks for several games, create one all-purpose boot disk.

general rule is that the more buffers there are, the faster your system will go, but each buffer usually takes up about half a kilobyte. Your hard disk *config.sys* file probably comes set as *buffers=30* or maybe a little less. You can probably get by with *buffers=15* for some memory savings.

Step 9. With your boot disk in the A: drive, reboot your system, either by pressing the computer's reset button or the Ctrl-Alt-Del keys at the same time. It should boot without a problem. Type *mem /c /p* at the DOS command-line prompt and hit Enter. You'll see a table with one crucial piece of information: a line near the bottom that says "Largest executable program size" and then lists a number, in kilobytes and bytes. That's how much memory you now have to run DOS games. Now you can take out the boot disk and load the game.

Solution 2: The more *configs* the merrier

If you're a frequent game player and you don't want to go digging around for your boot disk every time you want to play, consider the multiple startup configuration option. When you set up your system with multiple configurations, you customize it with one (or more) pairs of files that alternate acting as your *autoexec.bat* and *config.sys* files. These files are stored on your hard disk, and each configures your computer differently.

In this case, we're basically talking about using two different configurations: the one you normally use and the one you're going to create just for games.

Step 1. Go into the DOS Editor; type *edit* at the DOS command-line prompt and hit Enter to get there. Create a file on your hard disk called *autoexec.gam*. In this file, enter the same lines you'd list if you were creating an *autoexec.bat* file on a boot disk (see solution 1, step 4). Save the file as *c:\autoexec.gam*.

Step 2. In the DOS Editor, create a file on your hard disk called *config.gam*. In this file, enter the same lines you'd list if you were creating a file called *config.sys* on a boot disk (see solution 1, step 7). Now save the file as *c:\config.gam*.

Step 3. In the DOS Editor, you will create a file called *gameboot.bat*. (see below for instructions on how to do it). This file will tell your PC to boot up using either the *autoexec.gam* and *config.gam* files or your system's regular *autoexec.bat* and *config.sys* files.

Gameboot.bat does this by renaming the *autoexec.gam* and *config.gam* files you just created as your *autoexec.bat* and *config.sys* files, so that the computer will use them when you boot up to play a game. At the same time, it retitles your existing *autoexec.bat*

file as *autoexec.reg* and your *config.sys* file as *config.reg*, so you don't lose the information that's in them. (You don't have to use the *.reg*—for "regular"—extension; you can retitle these files *autoexec.jon* or *config.amy*, or whatever you like.) When you want to forget about game-playing and turn to workaday tasks such as word processing or balancing your checkbook, *gameboot.bat* will automatically transform *autoexec.reg* and *config.reg* back into *autoexec.bat* and *config.sys*, and boot up using them.

To create a *gameboot.bat* file, type the following instructions in this order:

```
echo off
c:
cd\
if exist autoexec.gam goto a
ren autoexec.bat autoexec.gam
ren autoexec.reg autoexec.bat
ren config.sys config.gam
ren config.reg config.sys
echo Ready for real work!
goto end
:a
```

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the memory manager software mentioned in this article.

Memory Commander
V Communications,
(800) 444-6073,
(408) 296-4224
$99 (DOS)

Multimedia Cloaking
Helix Software,
(800) 451-0551,
(718) 392-3100
$39.95 (Windows)

Netroom
Helix Software,
(800) 451-0551,
(718) 392-3100
$99 (Windows)

QEMM
Quarterdeck Systems,
(800) 354-3222,
(310) 392-9851
$99 (DOS, Windows)

386Max
Qualitas, (800) 733-1377,
(301) 907-6700
$99 (DOS)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail..

A+

DEAR MRS. LIND,
HOWIE'S SCIENCE
PROJECT WAS TERRIFIC.
THE ROCKET HE
LAUNCHED SHOULD
RE-ENTER OUR
ATMOSPHERE
TOMORROW.

©1994 BrainWorks. All rights reserved.
® & © Paramount Pictures. All Rights Reserved.
STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION is a Registered Trademark of Paramount Pictures.
The Flintstones are a Registered Trademark of HBP.
Nickelodeon is a Trademark owned and licensed by Nickelodeon, a programming service of Viacom International Inc.

Each kit includes:
Full-Function Keyboard,
Mouse, Mouse Pad,
3-D Monitor Mask,
Multi-Media Disc Holder.

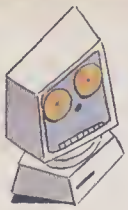
We call it Star Trek: The Next Generation™ Computer Accessory Kit.
But it's really a computer launching pad. How?
By transforming any PC into a total Star Trek environment
that's inspiring for your kids and practical for you. How futuristic!
For more information or for a retailer near you call 800-999-9989.

Available nationally at COMPUSA, COMPUTER CITY, SOFTWARE ETC

Computer Accessory Kits starring The Flintstones® and Nickelodeon® are also available.

BrainWorks

Helping little brains work better.



For about $100, a memory manager will ensure you'll never see 'Game Over' because of a RAM jam.

```
ren autoexec.bat autoexec.reg
ren autoexec.gam autoexec.bat
ren config.sys config.reg
ren config.gam config.sys
echo Now we can play a game!
:end
```

The term echo refers to the words you see on screen after you type *gameboot*.

To use this file, just type *gameboot* at the DOS command-line prompt and hit Enter, and then reboot your system, either by pressing the reset button or the Ctrl-Alt-Del keys at the same time. Use *gameboot.bat* before you start your game and again when you've finished and want to get back to work.

Solution 3: Master your memory

If you'd simply rather not create a boot disk or multiple configurations on your hard drive, memory manager software can help. Even if your memory problem doesn't involve a game, this software can come in handy. For example, say you want to scan pictures into your DOS-based graphics program; you may have a hard time freeing up conventional memory because you need to load driver software for your hand scanner, as well as other drivers. Popular memory manager programs, such as Memory Commander, Netroom, QEMM and 386Max, cost around $100. If you have DOS 6.0 or a more recent version you can use the built-in memory manager called MemMaker, but it usually frees up less conventional memory than the other programs.

Unlike boot disks and multiple configurations, which usually work by loading only specific drivers or software (such as TSR programs) and not loading others at all, these managers yank your RAM-eaters out of conventional memory and relocate them to upper memory—that space between 640K and 1 MB. Memory managers also allow DOS to have access to your computer's *high memory* area, which is the first 64K above 1 MB, and they can treat extended memory as expanded memory if a program requires it (some games do).

These programs feature an option known as automatic optimization, which more or less lets the software decide the best way to free up your memory with little or no involvement from you. If you like to tinker around on your own, most let you choose, for example, which parts of DOS—*command.com* or *msdos.sys*—you want to load into upper memory.

These programs free up varying amounts of memory, but some may slow down your programs a bit. QEMM is known for freeing up the maximum amount of memory possible, while 386Max does a great job of keeping your system running at top speed.

Memory manager software comes in handy for uses other than gaming, too; say, for example, that you're creating a large client listing using a text-based DOS database and need more than 640K of conventional memory—these programs will provide it.

A new product in this category is Multimedia Cloaking, which requires one of the other memory managers to run. Designed specifically for multimedia users, Multimedia Cloaking replaces the standard drivers for your CD-ROM drive and mouse, among other things, with versions that require much less conventional memory space. And it can even move most of these drivers up into extended memory to free both conventional and upper memory for use by your programs and other drivers.

A new solution that also promises to ease memory woes is the $129 IBM OS/2 Warp 3 operating system. When you run DOS-based programs on top of OS/2, they will each automatically have 655K available without any tinkering.

While freeing up extra RAM may be a tad more complicated than finding a store that sells batteries on Christmas Day, the end result will be well worth the extra effort. Stick with it, and watch the delight in your children's eyes when Fatty Bear finally dances by. ●

386Max mulls over system speed; QEMM stretches memory as far as it can.

NEW!

Do it ALL in DTP with the Desktop Star!

This ad was created with PagePlus!

1994 EDITORS' CHOICE HOME PC 100 TOP PRODUCTS

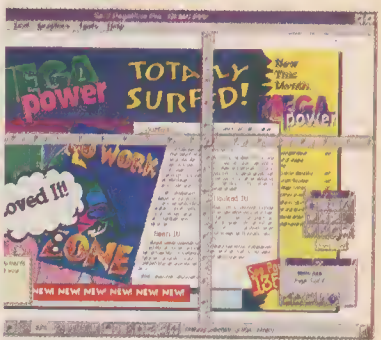
FREE SOFTWARE!

IF ONLY NANCY HAD KNOWN THAT SERIF'S FREE PAGEPLUS INTRO OFFER HAD BEEN EXTENDED, SHE'D HAVE CALLED RIGHT AWAY AND SAVED MONEY!!!

THE WORLD'S EASIEST DESKTOP PUBLISHER!

ocessing, drawing
d much more...

believe that Serif has beaten the big guys
er *and* simplicity *and* price. But, it's true
ve guarantee it! We know that once you
ew PagePlus 3.0 and sample our great free
support you'll join our thousands of en-
husiastic Serif customers.



Plus 3.0 for just $99 or try the CD-ROM
ublishing Suite with all the Serif OLE
TP Resources for only $199! Includes
eat drawing program, TablePlus our
TypePlus for text effects and logos,
ures, FontPack fonts and ArtPack clipart.
3.0 today, and prepare to be amazed!

MPUTE CHOICE AWARD ALIST

TECHNICAL INNOVATION AWARD PC 1993

Computer Shopper 1993 Award Winner Best Value Software

day, or Call to order
Serif PagePlus 3.0!

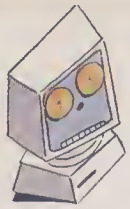
97-3743

er to 1-800-869-8909

s – Please Quote Code HMPC12

l handling charge (US only). Please have your credit card
d. You need Windows 3.1 and at least 2Mb RAM. Serif and
narks acknowledged. Please mail checks and money-orders
9-8650 and fax (603) 889-1127. PagePlus 3.0 is $99 and the
each and work with all Windows applications.

Guarantee! FREE Support!



For about $100, a memory manager will ensure you'll never see 'Game Over' because of a RAM jam.

ren autoexec.bat autoexec.reg
ren autoexec.gaw autoexec.bat
ren config.sys config.reg
ren config.gaw config.sys
echo Now we can play a gam
:end

The term echo refers t
words you see on screen aft
type *gameboot*.

To use this file, just type
boot at the DOS comman
prompt and hit Enter, and tl
boot your system, either by p
the reset button or the Ctrl-/
keys at the same time. Use
boot.bat before you start you
and again when you've fi
and want to get back to work

Solution 3: Maste your memory

If you'd simply rather not c
boot disk or multiple conf
tions on your hard drive,
memory manager soft-
ware can help. Even if
your memory problem
doesn't involve a game,
this software can come in
handy. For example, say
you want to scan pictures
into your DOS-based
graphics program; you
may have a hard time
freeing up conventional
memory because you need
to load driver software for
your hand scanner, as
well as other drivers. Pop-
ular memory manager
programs, such as Memo-
ry Commander, Netroom,
QEMM and 386Max, cost
around $100. If you have
DOS 6.0 or a more recent
version you can use the
built-in memory manager
called MemMaker, but it
frees up less conventional m
than the other programs.

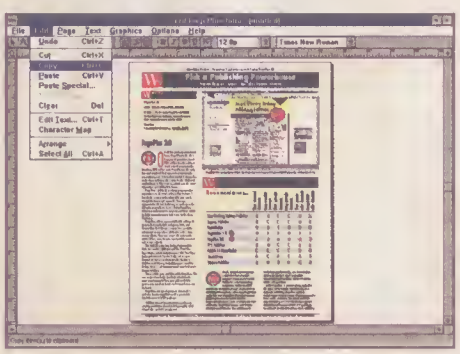
Unlike boot disks and m
configurations, which usuall
by loading only specific dri
software (such as TSR pro
and not loading others at al
managers yank your RAM
out of conventional memo
relocate them to upper memory—that space between 640K and 1 MB. Memory managers also allow DOS to have access to your
and need more than 640K of conventional memory—these programs will provide it.

A new product in this category

THE WORLD'S EASIEST DESKTOP PUBLISHER!

OFFER EXTENDED - 250,000 ADDITIONAL FREE COPIES!

If you don't already use Serif's PagePlus DTP, now's your chance! For a limited time you can get the world's easiest Desktop Publisher FREE! Due to massive customer demand, the Serif Free Software Offer has been extended and there's now 250,000 more FREE copies available... but you need to hurry... it can't last for long!



PagePlus Intro, the little brother to PagePlus 3.0, has been designed specifically for those new to DTP. We've removed the complex, ultra-high-end features of PagePlus 3.0 to produce a super-friendly and flexible desktop publisher. It's built on the foundations that have made PagePlus 3.0 an international Best Seller and winner of hundreds of world-wide awards and accolades.

PagePlus Intro gives you everything you need to get started in DTP FREE. Even a DTP newcomer will quickly be designing professional quality, graphics-packed flyers, letterheads and newsletters and getting great results on any dot-matrix, ink-jet or laser printer in color or black and white. And you'll find out that DTP is real fun too!

What's the catch? There's no catch! PagePlus Intro is simply the best way to find out about DTP and once you've used one Serif product you'll want the rest! Join our hundreds of thousands of enthusiastic Serif PagePlus customers who are already discovering the benefits of Desktop Publishing for themselves. Don't miss out on this unique offer for FREE Desktop Publishing Software from Serif. Call the Toll-Free number right now for your own FREE copy of PagePlus Intro!

SERIF PAGEPLUS INTRO COVERS ALL THE DTP BASES:

- IT'S EASY
- GREAT PRINT QUALITY
- FULL COLOR SUPPORT
- TEXT FRAMES
- TEXT EDITOR
- DRAWING TOOLS
- FREE TEXT
- IMPORT AND ROTATE TEXT AND PICTURES
- TEXT WRAP
- HINTLINE
- MOVABLE RULERS
- TOOLBAR
- TRUETYPE SUPPORT
- OLE ADD-ONS

ALL IN COLOR OR B/W ON YOUR OWN DOT-MATRIX, INKJET OR LASER PRINTER.

CALL NOW FOR FREE PAGEPLUS INTRO!

SERIF

1-800-489-6719

24-Hour Toll-Free Order Line, Open 7 Days.
Please Quote Code - FSHPC-12

* There is a non-refundable $6.95 shipping and admin charge. Please have your credit card ready. Visa, MasterCard, Amex and Discover accepted. Limit one copy per household. You need Windows 3.1 and 2Mb RAM. Serif and PagePlus are trademarks of Serif, Inc. Microsoft is a registered trademark and MS Publisher is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. All other trademarks acknowledged. MS Publisher has a list price of $139. Spend time shopping around mail-order and you may get it for around $85. Please mail checks or money-orders to Serif, PO Box 803, Nashua NH 03061. (603) 889-8650 and fax (603) 889-1127. PagePlus Intro can be collected free from Serif in Nashua... call for details. This offer is limited to the first 250,000 US callers. Please allow up to 28 days for delivery.

NEW!

Do it ALL in DTP with the Desktop Publishing SuperStar!

This ad was created with PagePlus!

1994 EDITORS' CHOICE HOME PC 100 TOP PRODUCTS

Serif PagePlus 3.0 – the Easiest, Best DTP with word-processing, drawing and illustration, photo-adjustment, Elvis detection and much more...

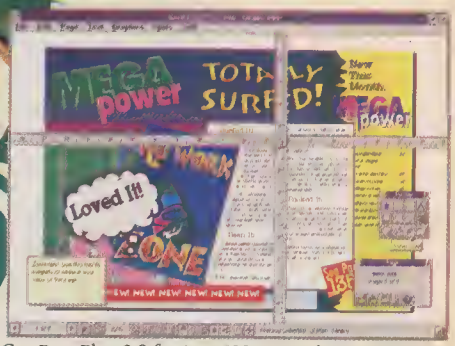
AWESOME LAUNCH SPECIAL! **$99*** *CD-ROM Publishing Suite $199

Now you can get the incredible new Windows Desktop Publisher for an unbelievable price! It's the easy way to turn your PC into your own personal printing press...

Serif PagePlus 3.0 is the hot new upgrade to our award-winning Windows publisher that's taking the market by storm. Professional designers love its high-end power, while beginners find an easy-to-learn, amazingly flexible desktop publisher. Whether you're on a tight budget, want the ultimate in ease of use, or need serious power features like color separation, full rotation and precise typographic control, PagePlus 3.0 is the DTP for you.

Windows Magazine rated ALL the top products and chose PagePlus 2.0 against expensive, tough-to-use high-end DTPs. New PagePlus 3.0 adds even more power, and helps you get started fast with designer templates, Assistants, Interactive Demos and more...

It's tough to believe that Serif has beaten the big guys on power *and* simplicity *and* price. But, it's true – and we guarantee it! We know that once you try new PagePlus 3.0 and sample our great free support you'll join our thousands of enthusiastic Serif customers.



Get PagePlus 3.0 for just $99 or try the CD-ROM PagePlus 3.0 Publishing Suite with all the Serif OLE Add-Ons and DTP Resources for only $199! Includes DrawPlus our great drawing program, TablePlus our mini-spreadsheet, TypePlus for text effects and logos, PhotoPlus for pictures, FontPack fonts and ArtPack clipart. Order PagePlus 3.0 today, and prepare to be amazed!

Windows Magazine Recommended 1993 · COMPUTE Choice Award Finalist · PC Magazine Technical Innovation Awards 1993 · Computer Shopper 1993 Award Winner

Serif PagePlus 3.0 does it ALL in DTP:

- The easiest DTP
- High-end power
- Full color support
- Great print quality
- Word-processing
- Full Drawing tools
- Text Effects and Logos
- Mini spreadsheet
- Photo adjustment
- Text/Picture rotation
- Comprehensive import
- Assistants & Demos
- ToolBox & ChangeBar
- Text wrap in & around
- TrueType & OLE

All in color or b/w on your own dot-matrix, inkjet or laser printer.

Choose Intro, Publisher or Pro level for the right combination of power features and help to suit yourself.

The Seybold Report on DTP (industry gurus) honored the new upgrade in their Awards for Excellence! Tremendous power with a superb, easy to use interface. Check out our awesome reviews to see how PagePlus 3.0 leaves other DTPs in the dust!

PagePlus 3.0 gives you everything in DTP. You'll quickly be designing professional, graphics-packed ads, flyers, letterheads, party invites, certificates, proposals, and much more. Get great results on your own dot-matrix, inkjet or laser printer. Or produce full color "Vogue-quality" brochures, packaging and ads. And it's great fun, too – especially our Elvis Detector for alerting you to the spirit of the King!

See your dealer today, or Call to order your copy of new Serif PagePlus 3.0!

1-800-697-3743

Or, Fax your order to 1-800-869-8909

24-hour Toll-Free Order Lines – Please Quote Code **HMPC12**

Note: There is a non-refundable $7.95 shipping and handling charge (US only). Please have your credit card ready: Visa, MasterCard, Amex and Discover accepted. You need Windows 3.1 and at least 2Mb RAM. Serif and PagePlus are trademarks of Serif, Inc. All other trademarks acknowledged. Please mail checks and money-orders to Serif, Inc. PO Box 803, Nashua NH 03061. (603) 889-8650 and fax (603) 889-1127. PagePlus 3.0 is $99 and the Publishing Suite is $199. Add-Ons are $29 each and work with all Windows applications.

High-End Power! Everyday Ease-of-Use! Award-Winning Value! 60-Day Money-Back Guarantee! FREE Support!

Illustration by Josef Gast

holiday-card mailings made simple on your pc

ADDRESS FOR SUCCESS

Mail merge lets you prepare hundreds of personal greetings fast. Here's how to do it.

Several years ago at holiday time, Judi Johnson had to wonder if it was possible to spread too much Christmas cheer. The Eagle Lake, Texas, homemaker looked at her holiday-card mailing list and saw more than 150 names. With her family commitments, community projects and charity work, Judi knew there was no way she'd be able to address all those envelopes by hand.

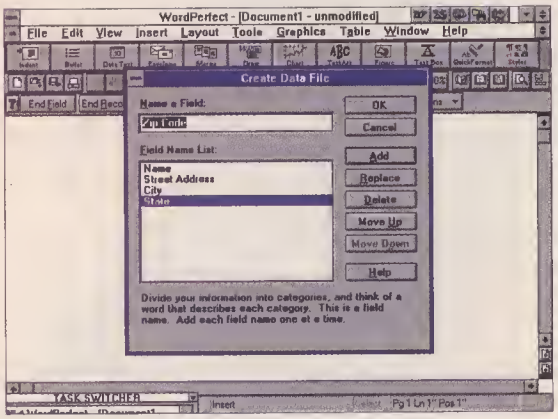
To save time, Judi fit a fancy italic typeball into her trusty electric typewriter, figuring it would be easier to type the addresses onto sheets of labels. No such luck. The type was pretty, Judi recalls, but "I was a terrible typist—I ruined a zillion labels with mistakes."

Next, Judi turned to her brand-new computer. While poring over the manual for her PFS:First Choice word processing software, a feature called mail merge caught her eye. It appeared it would enable her to do everything she wanted—and more. Judi created a file in mail

by hillary rettig

merge and typed in the names and addresses from her mailing list. Although it took time, correcting her mistakes on the PC was easy and well worth the effort: The list was now stored on her computer's hard drive, where it immediately proved its value. Judi used the list to address the labels for her holiday-card envelopes. She soon realized she could create another file in mail merge, write a letter filled with news of the year's events to include with each card and, before printing out 150 copies of the same letter, personalize each one by merging it with the names in her address file.

This year, Judi's holiday list has more names than ever, but thanks to mail merge she expects addressing the 200 or so envelopes to take "a couple of hours at the most." She prints the names and addresses on mailing labels for envelopes, holiday gifts and other packages, simply updating the list as necessary all year round. Judi is now a mail-merge maven, using the feature in both her new word processing program, WordPerfect, and in a database program called Alpha Four. She produces invitations, notices and labels for her church, and for her garden, library and book clubs. She manages a 4,000-name mailing list for an annual charity ball in Houston using mail merge, and she used it to invite 450 people to her son's wedding.



First, create a data file (left) and fill in the mailing list info (below).

Wedding bells also produced a ringing endorsement of mail merge from Shane Mitchell, a New York publishing consultant. When Shane was preparing for her big day, she entered the names and addresses of all her guests in her word processing program, Word for Windows, chose an italic font that resembled calligraphy and then printed the address list on the envelopes for her invitations and thank-you notes. "It was a real time-saver," she says.

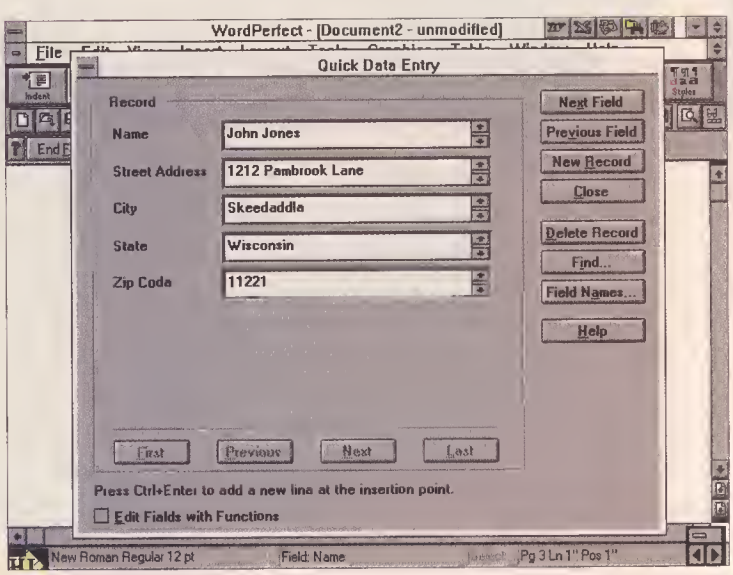
Genealogy buffs get a lot of mileage out of mail merge, too. Dick Eastman, chief systems operator of the Genealogy Forum on CompuServe, says that the forum's regulars download names and addresses (for a fee) from among the 80 million stored in the service's Phone*File database, then use mail merge to add those names and addresses to form letters requesting information on family members in a region or to advertise the availability of a book or other genealogical material covering certain surnames.

Getting started

If you have a word processing program, you've got everything you need for most mail-merge operations. But if you want to get fancy—perhaps create a holiday-card label with Santa Claus clip art for your family and one without it for business clients—you may need a more versatile program. An electronic address book, such as Softkey's Address Book Plus, or a personal information manager (PIM) easily sorts mailing information by categories, such as social and professional contacts (for more information on PIMs, see "Organizing Your Life," in the September issue of *HomePC*).

When you want to record and manipulate a lot of information—especially numbers such as dates, dollar amounts and credit-card payments—you may need a database program such as Lotus Approach, Microsoft Access or Claris FileMaker Pro. Databases are powerful and give you more options for the kinds of lists you can maintain and the ways you can print them. You can also combine them with other documents created in the database program or your word processor. But mail merge in a database is a complex process, so you may want to try it in a word processor first.

No matter which program you use, every merge consists of three steps—creating your data file (say, names and addresses), building your form file (the way you'd like the information to



WHAT BEST-SELLING TRIVIA GAME NOW FEATURES LIVE ACTION VIDEO WITH CELEBRITY VOICES, FAMOUS FOOTAGE, GREAT SPORTS MOMENTS, MUSIC, ANIMATION AND MORE?

FEATURES:

SIX CLASSIC CATEGORIES:
PEOPLE & PLACES, SPORTS & LEISURE, HISTORY, ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT, SCIENCE & NATURE AND WILD CARD

HUMOROUS ANIMATION INTRODUCES EACH CATEGORY AND ALSO TELLS YOU IF YOUR ANSWER IS RIGHT OR WRONG

1-6 PLAYERS INCLUDES FRIENDS AND FAMILY

CD QUALITY MUSIC ACCOMPANIES EACH QUESTION AND CATEGORY

TWO MODES OF PLAY: CLASSIC AND FAST

NOW AVAILABLE
FOR MAC CD-ROM & PC CD-ROM.

Virgin PARKER BROTHERS

©1994 Parker Brothers, Division of Tonka Corporation, 50 Dunham Road, Beverly, MA 01915. The trademark TRIVIAL PURSUIT and the distinctive design of the game board are registered trademarks of Horn Abbot Ltd. for the games distributed and sold in the U.S. under exclusive license to Parker Brothers, Division of Tonka Corporation. ©1994 Horn Abbot Ltd. Virgin is a registered trademark of Virgin Enterprises, Ltd. Software developed by Western Technologies, Inc.

appear) and merging the two files for printing.

Let's say you're in charge of rounding up the guests for your family's 25th annual reunion. You want to create an invitation—"Come to a party with oodles of Ooglesons at Uncle Ollie's gooseberry farm on January 7th at 1 p.m."—personalize each invite with the guest's name and address the envelopes. You'll be mailing 100 invitations—well within the capabilities of a good word processor.

First you need to create a list that contains the basic information for your data files—in our example, the names and mailing addresses of everyone you're inviting to the reunion. This information must be organized in a specific format; many programs require the information to be entered in table form, typically divided into records (all the information pertaining to an individual) and fields (a single piece of information—say, a name, street address, state or zip code—in an individual's record).

All records in your data file must have the same number of fields, but you may leave a field blank, such as a person's birthdate, if that information won't be required in the form file. Each program handles records and fields differently; check your software manual for specifics. (If you're copying information for your data file from a PIM or another program, you'll have to transfer the file in a format your word processor will be able to use. Check the programs' manuals for information on file transfers.)

Once you've got all the information in a data file, it's time to work on your form files—in our example, we'll need one for the invitation and one for the envelope. Form files, which can be designed any way you like—as an invitation or as an envelope, for example—will contain all the standing text ("Come to a party with oodles of Ooglesons...") and the formatting (the font and graphics, such as a picture of your family's crest) that will be repeated on every invitation.

To unite your data and your form, both files must contain special merge information. In your data file, you provide this information by entering names in the name field, streets in the address field and so on.

In your form file, you typically enter a merge code—say, <NAME> after the word "Dear"—by choosing the name field from a pull-down menu. These codes act as flags that tell the software which field of information from your

Four ways to make sure your *mail-merge project* delivers

Your mail-merge project is sure to go more smoothly if you keep the following tips in mind:

• *Proofread all information carefully.* Remember, Aunt Ethel won't get her invitation if you enter a wrong number in your data file's address field. Worse, if you make a mistake in your form file, the error will appear on every copy of your merged document. Take a fine-toothed comb to your data and form files, and then to the final merged documents, *before* you print them. You'll save paper and spare yourself the embarrassment of sending out an incorrect or undeliverable document.

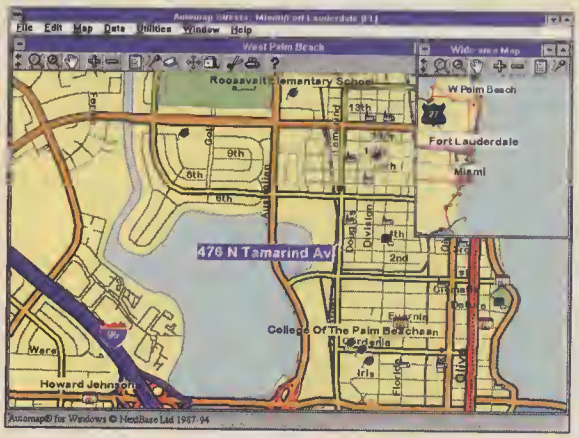
• *Check for missing information.* A typo search is just the beginning; make sure you didn't omit or misplace required merge information. For instance, if your form file calls for an address, check that you haven't left that field blank in your data file.

• *Do a practice run before printing.* Proofreading your merged documents before printing helps avoid errors, but you'd be surprised how easy it is to overlook mistakes when you're reading on-screen. So, before committing to expensive stationery, print the entire batch on plain paper in a practice run. After all, even mail-merge experts' projects bomb from time to time. Either some documents don't print, or they all emerge with formatting errors or information in the wrong place ("Dear Cincinnati, OH").

• *Shrink your fonts for a better fit.* If you're trying to merge text onto a small area such as a mailing label, reduce the font size of your form document. This will help you fit more information in the same amount of space. —*H.R.*

"With Automap Streets, I Can Find the Exact Locations of My Customers in Seconds."

–Mary O'Neill, Interior Furnishings Rep



View detailed street-level maps and quickly locate precise addresses.

Mary O'Neill's success relies on her ability to visit her out-of-town customers. Automap Streets is the CD-ROM mapping tool created for people like Mary and any traveler who can benefit from having street-level maps at their fingertips.

Automap Streets is the highest quality, most affordable street-level mapping program available. You can choose from 200+ wide-area maps– we cover the entire USA (excluding Alaska). Each map provides you with nearly every street in a particular city or group of cities, its suburbs, and the surrounding area.

It's fast, easy-to-use, and saves you time and money. Automap Streets takes full advantage of the CD-ROM environment. Work right from the CD, or download individual maps onto your laptop to take on the road. With initial purchase you get your choice of one wide-area map, plus four smaller downtown maps–free! And, order additional maps for $30 or less simply by calling Automap and 'unlocking' the city or cities of your choice.

Automap Streets combines quality Etak data–the best in the industry– with our sophisticated mapping technology. So Automap Streets' maps are up-to-date, easy to read, and rich with details.

Automap Streets:

- *Is ideal for business travelers, travel agencies, delivery drivers, dispatchers, sales departments and anyone trying to find their way around town or produce high quality maps in documents.*
- *Gives you detailed downtown maps of New York, San Francisco, Washington and Chicago in addition to the wide-area map you choose.*
- *Delivers the capability to locate almost any street, address or intersection easily on large viewing area.*
- *Can zoom-in on areas of your choice.*
- *Can print clear, detailed maps of any area.*
- *Links to Automap Pro (optional)-add your own sites to street-level maps and get database capabilities at street level.*
- *Compatible with Automap Road Atlas (optional)*

Also from Automap:

Automap Road Atlas™: The World's Leading Computerized Road Atlas. Quickly and easily plan trips between any two points in the U.S. and Canada. See maps on-screen or print out colorful, detailed maps showing you the quickest, shortest or alternative routes to take.

NEW **Automap Pro™: Combine extensive database capabilities with detailed route planning.** Business people and travel professionals who manage sales, distribution or any geographically related task will save time and money by locating their existing databases and sales routes on detailed maps.

NEW **Automap Destination Series: Low-cost add-ons to your copy of Road Atlas.** Get detailed information on Campgrounds, Golf courses, Ski resorts, and Europe.

Call 1-800-564-MAPS today to order!

Or visit your local software store.

PRODUCT	PLATFORM	SRP	PRICE
Automap Streets (first map)	CD-ROM WIN	~~$49.95~~	$39.95
Additional Maps	CD-ROM WIN		$30.00 or less
Automap Road Atlas	DOS WIN MAC or CD-ROM WIN	~~$99.95~~	$59.95
Destination Europe	Add-On DOS WIN	~~$49.95~~	$39.95
Destination Campground	Add-On WIN	~~$49.95~~	$39.95
Destination Golf	Add-On WIN	~~$29.95~~	$19.95
Destination Ski	Add-On DOS WIN	~~$29.95~~	$19.95
Automap Pro	WIN	~~$399.00~~	$249.95

* Add $5.50 for shipping and handling, plus applicable sales tax. Prices good for a limited time only.

AUTOMAP®

The easiest way to get from here to there.

Automap, Inc., 1309 114th Ave. SE, Suite 110 Bellevue, WA 98004 Tel: (206) 455-3552 Fax: (206) 455-3667

Automap is a registered trademark of NextBase Ltd. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corp.

data file to merge into your form file.

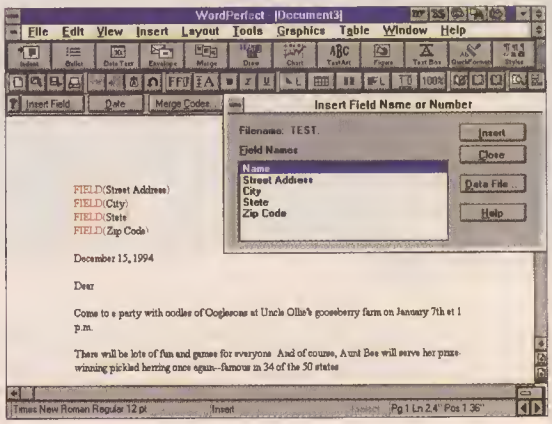
If you want to further personalize an invitation, you can use a "conditional" mail merge. Let's say you want to include a special note on the invitations going to your seven first cousins born in 1972. When you enter the information in your data file, create a field for the birth year. Then, in your form file, select the "if...then" option from your menu and type in the records you want to select. In this case, after the "if" you'd choose records that list 1972 in the birth-year field; after the "then" you'd type the statement you want included on those particular invitations, such as "I can't wait for the cousins of '72 to get together again!"

Now you're ready to merge. Select the merge command in your word processing program. In our example, you'll run two mail merges—one using the invitation form file and another using the envelope form file. The merge usually takes a few minutes. When it's finished, proofread your work on screen before printing.

One of the best parts of mail merge is that both your data and form files can be stored to use again. When it comes time to invite your relatives to the 26th annual family reunion, you only have to call up these files in your word processor and make appropriate additions or corrections. For example, you may need to add information about newlyweds to your data file and change the date and location of the party in your invitation form file. Then just merge and print the same way you did this year.

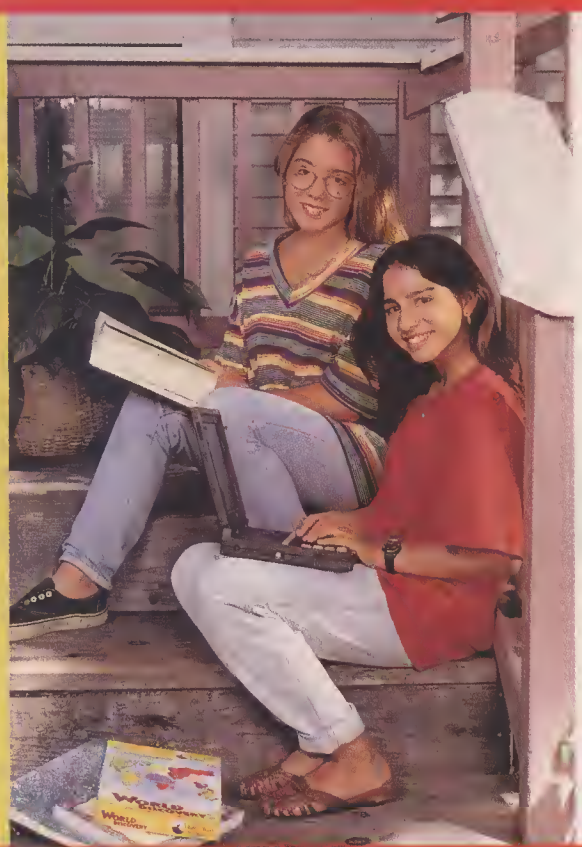
Now, if they could only teach a computer how to lick the stamps.... •

Hillary Rettig is a New York-based writer.



Pull-down menus let you merge your data into the form file.

Jenny and Sara explored France and Japan with World Discovery. They didn't go to the mall today.



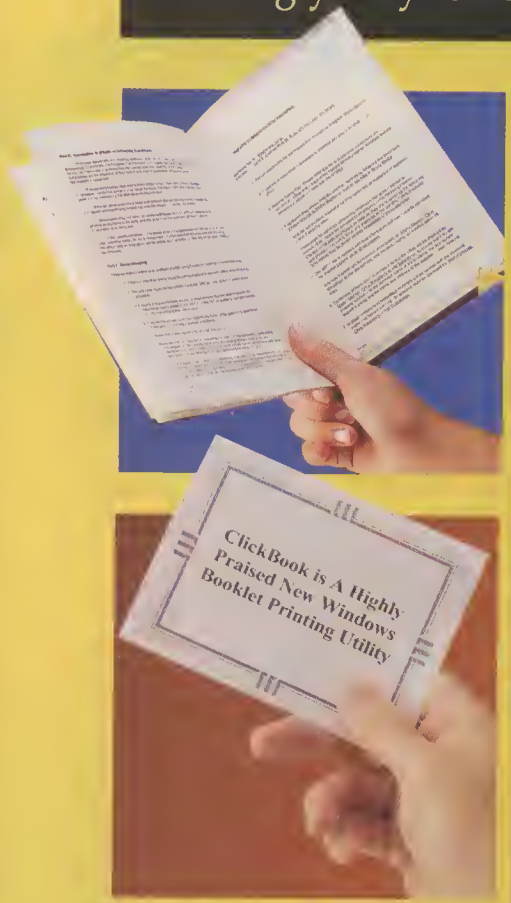
Learning is fun!

World Discovery™ is innovative software that teaches world geography and facts about politics, economics and history. Developed by educators for ages 8 – adult, parents and kids alike enjoy finding out about countries, cities, rivers, mountains and more! 12 different games make geography lively and interesting. Take it from an experienced traveler. **World Discovery** lets you explore the globe without ever leaving home. Call us for information about our other award winning reading, math, or early learning software for PC or MAC.

1-800-423-1144

Great Wave Software®

"*Click*Book is a great utility that's stunningly easy to use." –PC MAGAZINE, NOV. 23, 1993



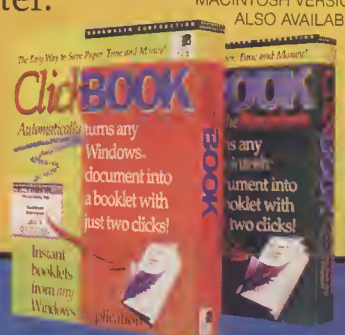
*Click*Book turns Windows files into double-sided booklets and brochures.

ClickBOOK™

*Click*Book automatically turns the files created by most Windows programs into double-sided booklets and brochures. *Click*Book intercepts pages on the way to the printer. It automatically reduces and then places pages in the correct order for double-sided printing on any laser or ink-jet printer.

*Click*Book is available at CompUSA, Egghead, MicroCenter, Fry's Electronics and other leading software dealers. **OR CALL 800-766-8531 TO ORDER.**

MACINTOSH VERSION ALSO AVAILABLE



BOOKMAKER CORPORATION
2470 EL CAMINO REAL • PALO ALTO, CA 94306
(415) 354-8161 • FAX (415) 856-4734

BLAST off to a whole new learning adventure

DINONAUTS™

It's the Dinonauts.

A fantastic voyage in learning as kids and dinos search a galaxy filled with games and activities for a new place to call home. In an amazing spaceship designed by dinos Spike, Thorny, Dac, and Elwood, kids touch down on eight* wonderful worlds, each one alive with music, jokes, and animation that's really out there. Moving from planet to planet, developing new skills, kids reach for the stars and discover that learning is a great place to be.

- Eight * entertaining planets with wonderful animation and magical music.
- Develops problem-solving and creativity skills.
- Designed with over 90 * distinctive screens and hundreds of hot spots.
- Print out and color favorite screens. **

Available on CD-ROM and diskette for MS DOS, Windows and Macintosh

* Five planets and over 50 distinctive screens in diskette version

** Available on CD-ROM and diskette for Mac and Windows versions only

© 1994 Virgin Sound and Vision. All rights reserved.

Virgin NOISE

getting into the college of your choice

Your PC won't take your kids' SATs for them. But it *can* help them get a higher score, pick the right school, complete applications and find financial aid.

by steven brewer

Whenever Anne Warner has a moment to spare, she sets off in search of the perfect college. Venturing no farther afield than her PC, the Portland, Ore., high-school sophomore "visits" campuses all over the country courtesy of her college-search software program and a few clicks of the mouse.

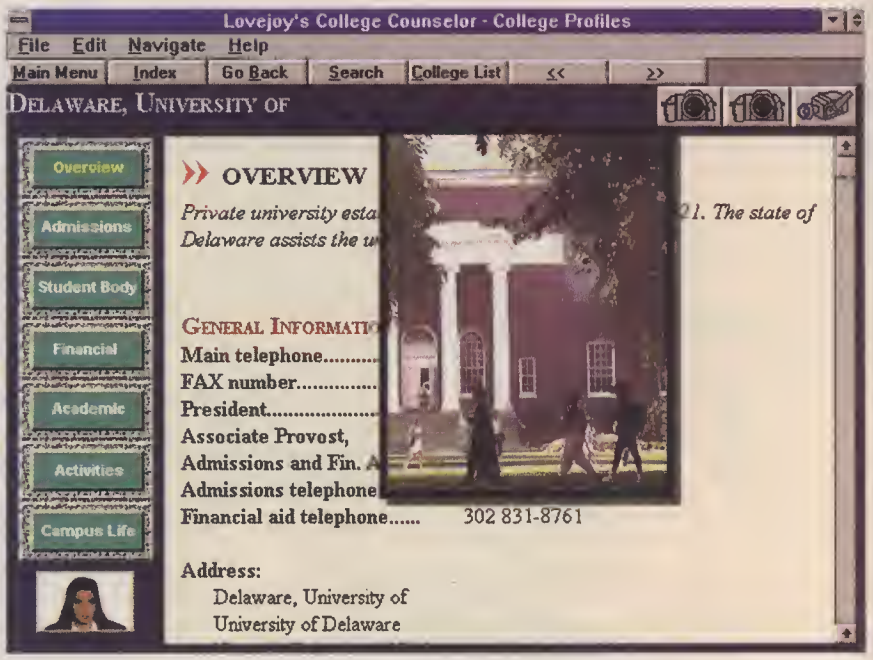
In Meriden, Conn., George Dietrichsen recently helped his daughter, Kristen, beat the paper chase. Using a new computerized application service, Kristen applied to three schools in a fraction of the time it would have taken her to apply to each individually.

Students at the three Chicago public high schools where Albert Loving, a retired Army colonel and accountant, volunteers as a mentor are having an easier time look-

Illustration by Amy Wasserman

ing for scholarship money ever since Loving purchased a financial-aid software package.

It only stands to reason that a generation that grew up playing Nintendo games and doing their homework on word processors should turn to their computers when it's time to look for a college. A growing battery of software and on-line services are making the college search—as well as preparing for the SATs, applying to schools and looking for financial aid—a lot easier for college-bound students and their parents.

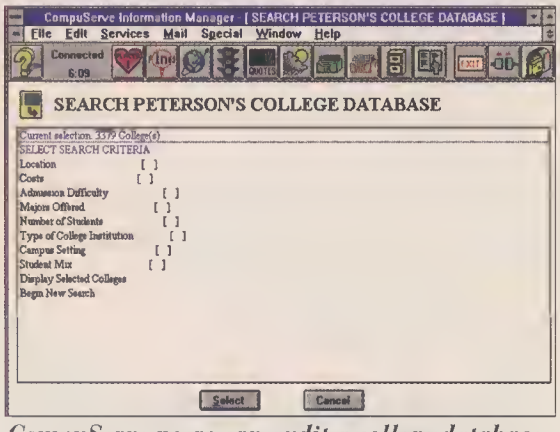


Before you get to caupus, multimedia briugs a little of the caupus to you.

Why hit the books?

Almost anyone who's been to college in the past 30 years remembers what it was like poring over the voluminous printed guides to U.S. colleges and universities. These days, computer-savvy families with college-bound students are just as likely to congregate in front of a PC to weigh the options. Like the books, college-search software provides information about tuition and housing costs, SAT requirements, areas of study and descriptions of college life. There's a big difference, though, between looking for a college in a book and with a computer. With software such as ThinkSmart's College Guide, Lovejoy's College Counselor and Peterson's College Selection (and its on-line counterpart Peterson's College DataBase on CompuServe), you don't have to spend hours flipping back and forth between an index, college descriptions and stacks of notes. These programs easily help narrow your search to the schools that best suit your child's needs.

To navigate through any of these programs, you simply click on icons that allow you to indicate what you're looking for in a school—size, location, areas of study and cost—and the software rifles through its database to select the schools that best fit your specific criteria.



CoupuServe users can audit a college database.

Paul Catinella, a high-school senior in Churchville, Pa., recently used ThinkSmart's College Guide to search for schools in Florida and Arizona that cost less than $15,000 a year in tuition and offer a biology major, among other things. The program found 12 schools that met his criteria and provided Paul with a detailed profile of each.

Anne Warner took advantage of a feature in Peterson's College Selection Service that allowed her to choose schools in either urban or rural settings. She asked to see private rural schools in the northeast with high academic standards. The program listed eight colleges in New England, most of them Ivy League and Seven Sister schools.

These programs are similar, but each has unique features. Lovejoy's College Counselor, for example, uses its multimedia capabilities for video tours and snapshots of college campuses. ThinkSmart's College Guide makes it easy to compare schools in customized lists. For example, you can print out a selection of all the colleges that offer a certain major or a tuition list for all the schools in your home state. Peterson's College Selection Service has a "why not" option that explains why it didn't include a college in a selection. This way, you might learn that though your child has the grades, his or her SAT scores just aren't high enough for ac-

ceptance at a particular school. Peterson's College Selection Service and Think-Smart's College Guide also make it easy to customize form letters requesting college catalogs and admissions materials.

Lowering the cost of admissions

In many households, mailing away for college catalogs is a sore subject among kids and their parents. In fact, it's what convinced Jerry Paxton, a computer executive in Concord, Mass., to start a new business. "I wanted my son, Gregory, to contact a lot of schools," remembers Paxton, "and I felt like a broken record, nagging him all the time to get the letters out." There must be an easier way, decided Paxton, who developed IntroApp, a PC-based service that requests admissions materials from as many as 10 schools for a $5 fee and in turn provides the schools with information about prospective students.

To use the service, your child inserts the IntroApp diskette into a computer, then follows simple on-screen instructions to enter basic information—grades, extracurricular activities, possible majors—and returns the disk in a postage-paid mailer to IntroApp. The service forwards the information to the schools your child selects. Not only does the service save students the trouble of writing perhaps dozens of inquiry letters to colleges but it also provides the schools with detailed information they can use to address the specific concerns of potential applicants. For instance, the East Tennessee State University admissions office recently contacted an IntroApp user who indicated that she was a member of her high-school band and needed financial assistance. She learned that scholarships were available for students who wished to join the marching band and other organizations.

Before the admissions process begins in

Economics 101: finding the *money* to pay the tuition bills

Computers are a great new way to locate financial aid for your child's education, but the search also requires some good old-fashioned common sense. Here are some tips from Sherwin Block, president of Pathfinders, a Phoenix-based organization that holds corporate-sponsored seminars on how to find money for college in Arizona.

• *Check with the human resources department where you work.* Many companies sponsor programs to help pay the tuition costs of their employees' children.

• *Explore special-interest scholarships.* Is your college-bound son or daughter a good writer, musician, dancer, debater? Ask financial aid officers at the colleges your kids are considering if scholarships are available based on majors or extracurricular activities. Also, check your local library for *The Encyclopedia of Associations*. The book lists most organizations in the United States, and often mentions scholarships groups offer based on interests that reflect the individual organization's mission or interests.

• *Don't rule out a sports scholarship just because your child isn't a superjock.* Many schools are eager to attract students with better-than-average abilities in sports for team play and offer financial incentives to athletes.

• *Consider work-study programs.* Colleges usually maintain lists of employers with part-time jobs for students.

• *Be creative with the options your software scholarship software offers.* If you use Scholarships 101, for example, enter SAT scores that are slightly higher than your child's results. You might be surprised to learn that your child will qualify for some good scholarships if he or she retakes the test and does a little better. —*S.B.*

Scholarships 101

earnest, just about every college-bound student experiences a dreaded ritual—taking the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT), the standardized exam schools use as one of the major criteria to evaluate applicants. One way to ease the jitters—and possibly improve scores—is to use one of the SAT-preparation packages now available on software and on-line.

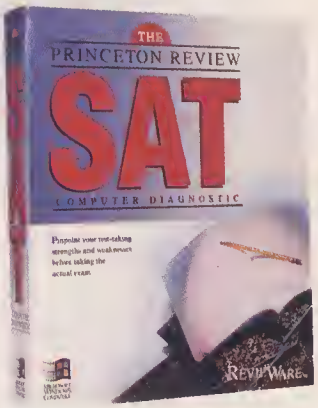
Practice tests make perfect

Your Personal Trainer for the SAT is a preparation regimen that helps kids study for the SATs. A pretest assesses your child's strengths and weaknesses, comparing his or her results with national averages and the average scores of entering freshman at any of 350 colleges you choose. The program then suggests strategies to improve scores. For instance, it presents a list of 250 words that give many SAT takers trouble and lets you print them out as flash cards so your child can bone up on them away from the computer. The next step is a battery of practice

Software helps kids drill in problem areas.

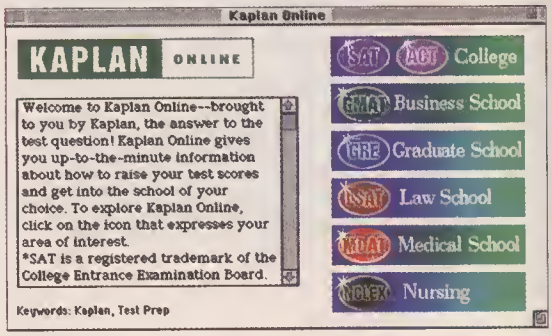
problems, which prepares kids for a second practice test to gauge his or her improvement.

The Princeton Review SAT Computer Diagnostic Program is not a review course, but a dry run for the real thing. Four full-length, timed mock SATs are adapted from the practice tests the Princeton Review uses in its traditional review courses. A detailed analysis at the end of each test breaks down your child's results in each category, indicating strengths and weaknesses. That way, your child knows what to concentrate on to improve test scores—for example, studying sentence structure rather than reading comprehension.



Take a full-length test.

Kaplan Online, sponsored by the nation's largest test-preparation company, now offers Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT) and SAT-prep sessions through America Online. Your child takes a sample test and is then provided with the correct answers and explanations for each question he or she missed. Kaplan Online also offers information on admissions and financial aid, as well as bulletin boards where students can exchange ideas and talk to testing experts.



America Online offers SAT review courses.

Applications software

With a list of colleges in mind and SAT scores on record, the application process begins. Software is also making this process easier. More than 650 colleges now accept applications from CollegeLink, a service that for $35 allows your child to apply to up to eight colleges by completing just a single application on the home computer. Many schools that subscribe to CollegeLink waive the application fee because they want to encourage students to use the service. The service in turn encourages students to apply to more schools than they otherwise would, so CollegeLink gives the schools access to a larger pool of students. It also helps colleges save money by reducing the cost of data entry into their own computer systems, and applications arrive in a neat, easy-to-read format.

To use CollegeLink, your child follows simple on-screen instructions, first identifying the schools to which he or she is applying, and then entering the required information, such as grades, areas of interest and extracurricular activities. Most schools accept a standard essay, but if an additional essay is required, the program lets the student know and provides space for it in the application. The program asks questions specific to certain schools such as

"YOU MUST BUY THIS...

one of the few CD-ROM sets I keep on my desk."
– John Dvorak, PC Magazine

"You'll **love** the PhoneDisc products."
said *PC World* and placed PhoneDisc on its list of 25 CD-ROM gems.

"**Easy** to use...the only program to achieve a **perfect** score in our directory test."
– Accounting Technology

"It's **great** stuff...We have to admire this collection of residential and business addresses and phone numbers."
– PC Computing

Top 100 CD-ROMS

PC MAGAZINE

PC Magazine
September,
1994

Best Business Product

CD • ROM HOME & OFFICE WORLD
1994

CD ROM Home &
Office World Expo
August 1994

PhoneDisc. America's Original Telephone Book on CD-ROM!

Experience the amazing ease of PhoneDisc®, the one and only CD-ROM directory that the experts can't stop talking about! This outstanding collection of directory listings is the only one to offer instant access to more than **91 million** businesses and residences nationwide. Updated and cross-referenced quarterly, no other CD-ROM directory can match PhoneDisc's accuracy. Only PhoneDisc offers powerful, flexible search software for DOS, Macintosh and Windows to make your quest for old friends or new business contacts incredibly simple. And now, PhoneDisc features **no limits** on exporting and printing business listings. Undoubtedly, PhoneDisc is the most comprehensive telephone directory of its kind! PhoneDisc. Simply the best.

Business $79 – Over 9.5 million listings with reverse searching by name, address, phone number, business type or six-digit SIC code.
Residential $79 – Lists 81 million residences on two regional discs! Retrieves names, phone numbers, addresses and zip codes.
PowerFinder $249 – Over 91 million residential and business listings on five regional discs. Reverse search indexing of all listings.
ComboPack $129 – PhoneDisc Business and Residential directories bundled together.

International orders, please call (617)639-2900
Digital Directory Assistance
6931 Arlington Road, Suite 405,
Bethesda, MD 20814

Visit your local PhoneDisc retailer
or call 1-800-284-8353 to order!

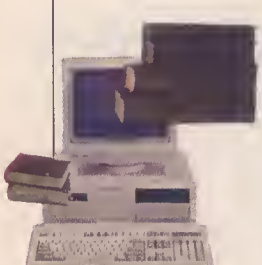
"Are you applying for early decision?" or "Are either of your parents alumni of this school?" When the application is completed, just mail the disk to CollegeLink in Concord, Mass., and the company customizes it and generates individual application disks for each of the selected schools. CollegeLink returns the package to the student, who then submits each disk, with an application fee if necessary, to the college.

George Dietrichsen learned about CollegeLink when he was helping his daughter, Kristen, apply to colleges. "Kristen wanted to apply to five colleges," he remembers. "We finished the first application, for Vassar, and it looked like we were going to spend every minute of our free time for the next two months doing paperwork." Three of the schools to which Kristen applied—including Connecticut College, where she is now a freshman—accepted applications submitted using CollegeLink. "It made the application process a lot more enjoyable," says Dietrichsen.

You can also apply to many colleges using the Common Application Program, sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. All 138 schools that participate in the program accept the same, standardized application, which candidates fill out once, copy onto individual diskettes and mail directly to the admissions offices.

So your child has found the college of his or

Using a PC *doesn't* mean you can skip your homework



Like any tool, the computer's value to a family exploring college options depends on how it's being used. Here are some tips from college pros on how to get the most from your computer in the college application process.

• "A computer can provide a lot of facts about colleges, but it doesn't replace doing some investigative reporting on your own," says Barbara Oppenheim, publisher of *University Access*, a Princeton, N.J.-based newsletter for high-school students preparing for college. She encourages college-bound students and their parents to talk to as many people as possible.

"Ask anyone you meet where they went to college, what colleges they would recommend and why they like a particular school," she advises. "Then go check out these schools on the computer to see if they match your interests."

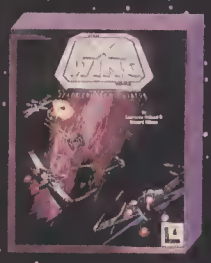
• Computers are fun and make the college search easier, but getting into the right college still requires hard work, notes Fran Carney, director of guidance for the Mesa, Ariz., public schools. "Take the search seriously," advises Carney, who uses several software programs to help students do college searches and look into financial assistance. "Write to colleges for information and spend some time in the library digging out information about various schools and career paths."

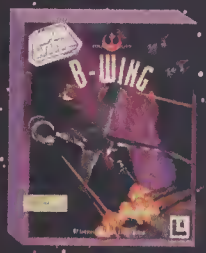
Don't waste time "fooling around" on the computer, she adds. "Learn the programs and use them to get as much information as you can."

• The essay is an important part of the college application, and students shouldn't delude themselves into thinking a spell checker will make their writing read like Shakespeare's, says Marc Troeger, senior assistant director of admissions at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. While a spell checker can catch a lot of errors in an essay, it can also backfire.

"When we see the word 'their' when 'there' is the obvious choice," he says, "we know the student just ran a spell check and didn't go over the work carefully. That looks bad." Troeger's advice: Check your essay very carefully before you send it in. For better or for worse, your essay tells the school a lot about the kind of person you are. —*S.B.*

THE NEW STAR WARS TRILOGY IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK.



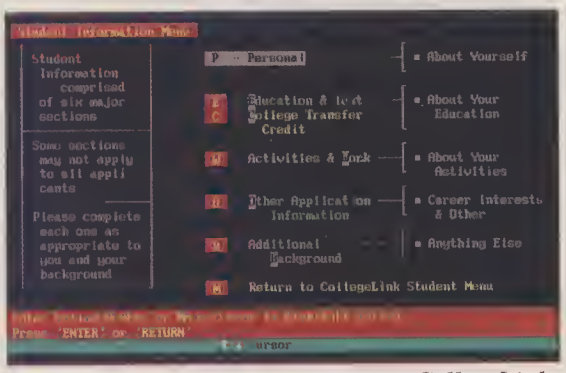


IT'S HERE. NEW, ENHANCED X-WING™ FOR CD-ROM. FEATURING FULL VERSIONS OF X-WING, IMPERIAL PURSUIT™ AND B-WING™. WITH MORE REALISTIC SPACECRAFT AND VOICE. PLUS SIX NEW MISSIONS. CALL 1-800-STAR WARS FOR AVAILABILITY.

LUCAS Arts

X-Wing computer program ©1992, 1994 LucasArts Entertainment Company. B-Wing and Imperial Pursuit computer programs ©1993, 1994 LucasArts Entertainment Company. X-Wing audiovisual display ©1992, 1994 LucasArts Entertainment Company and Lucasfilm Ltd. B-Wing and Imperial Pursuit audiovisual displays ©1993, 1994 LucasArts Entertainment Company. All Rights Reserved. Used Under Authorization. X-Wing and B-Wing are trademarks of Lucasfilm Ltd. Star Wars is a registered trademark of Lucasfilm Ltd. Imperial Pursuit and iMUSE are trademarks of LucasArts Entertainment Company. The LucasArts logo is a registered trademark of LucasArts Entertainment Company. iMUSE U.S. Patent No. 5,315,057.

her dreams and has the grades and SAT scores to get in. Now comes the real challenge—paying for it. Again, your PC can be of help. Scholarship 101 has 7,000 listings of aid sources, far more than any other



Apply to eight colleges at once with CollegeLink.

product on the market for home use. Even better, it's a whiz at wading through all this data and narrowing your search to the sources that are most likely to provide assistance for your child. You supply such information as your child's career plans, class rank, organization memberships and other affiliations and household income. The program then searches its data bank for the sources of financial aid that match your profile, provides descriptions, dollar amounts, number of scholarships awarded each year, eligibility requirements, the due dates for applications and contact information. Scholarship 101 also provides a form letter students can print out to request information and applications.

Loving uses Scholarship 101 in his volunteer work helping high-school kids in Chicago public schools find financial aid for college. "I can find more possible scholarships in an afternoon using this program than I could poking around the library for a week. I would have been really grateful if home computers had been around when my son and daughter got ready to go to college."

Grateful, yes. After all, a lot of parents remember lugging around those phone-book-size college directories and the torturous hours spent painstakingly dotting *i's* and crossing *t's* on a stack of applications until they were just right. It's a relief to find they don't have to relive *that* part of the experience with their kids—instead they can conserve their energies for the anxious months down the road when they're waiting with their kids for those acceptance letters to arrive. •

Steven Brewer is a New York-based writer.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information about the college-related software and on-line services mentioned in this article.

CollegeLink
Enrollment Technologies, (800) 394-0404, (508) 287-0200
$34.95 (DOS, Macintosh)

Common Application Program
National Association of Secondary School Principals, (703) 860-0200
$10 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)

IntroApp
Enrollment Technologies, (800) 394-0404, (508) 287-0200
$5 (DOS, Macintosh)

Lovejoy's College Counselor
InterMedia, (215) 387-0448
$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

Peterson's College Selection Service
Peterson's, (800) 338-3282, (609) 243-9111
$165 (DOS)

Princeton Review SAT Computer Diagnostic Program
Lyriq, (800) 433-4464, (203) 250-2070
$29.95 (DOS, Windows, Macintosh)

Scholarship 101
Pinnacle Peak Solutions, (800) 883-7512, (217) 787-6716
$69.95 (DOS, Macintosh)

ThinkSmart's College Guide
TES, (800) 925-6853, (914) 356-1485
$39.95 (Windows)

Your Personal Trainer for the SAT
Davidson & Associates, (800) 545-7677, (310) 793-0600
$39.95 (DOS)
$49.95 (Macintosh)

On-line services

Kaplan Interactive Services
America Online, (800) 827-6364, (703) 448-8700

Peterson's College DataBase
CompuServe, (800) 848-8199, (614) 457-8600

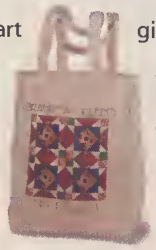
Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

Now you can use your computer to draw a smile.

That's right. You can now use your PC to draw smiles, laughs and even hard-to-draw things like affection and appreciation. All you need is Gift Maker, the new software that lets you easily create one-of-a-kind, personalized presents that draw the most wonderful responses no matter what the occasion—

birthdays, holidays, school celebrations, or the company picnic.

Here's how it works: First, pick from over 35 gift items —mugs to mousepads to teddy bears and more. Next, start designing. Use Gift Maker's 300 templates, 30 different typefaces, and 500 graphic images. Even include your own photos or graphics. When you're finished, follow the interactive ordering screen



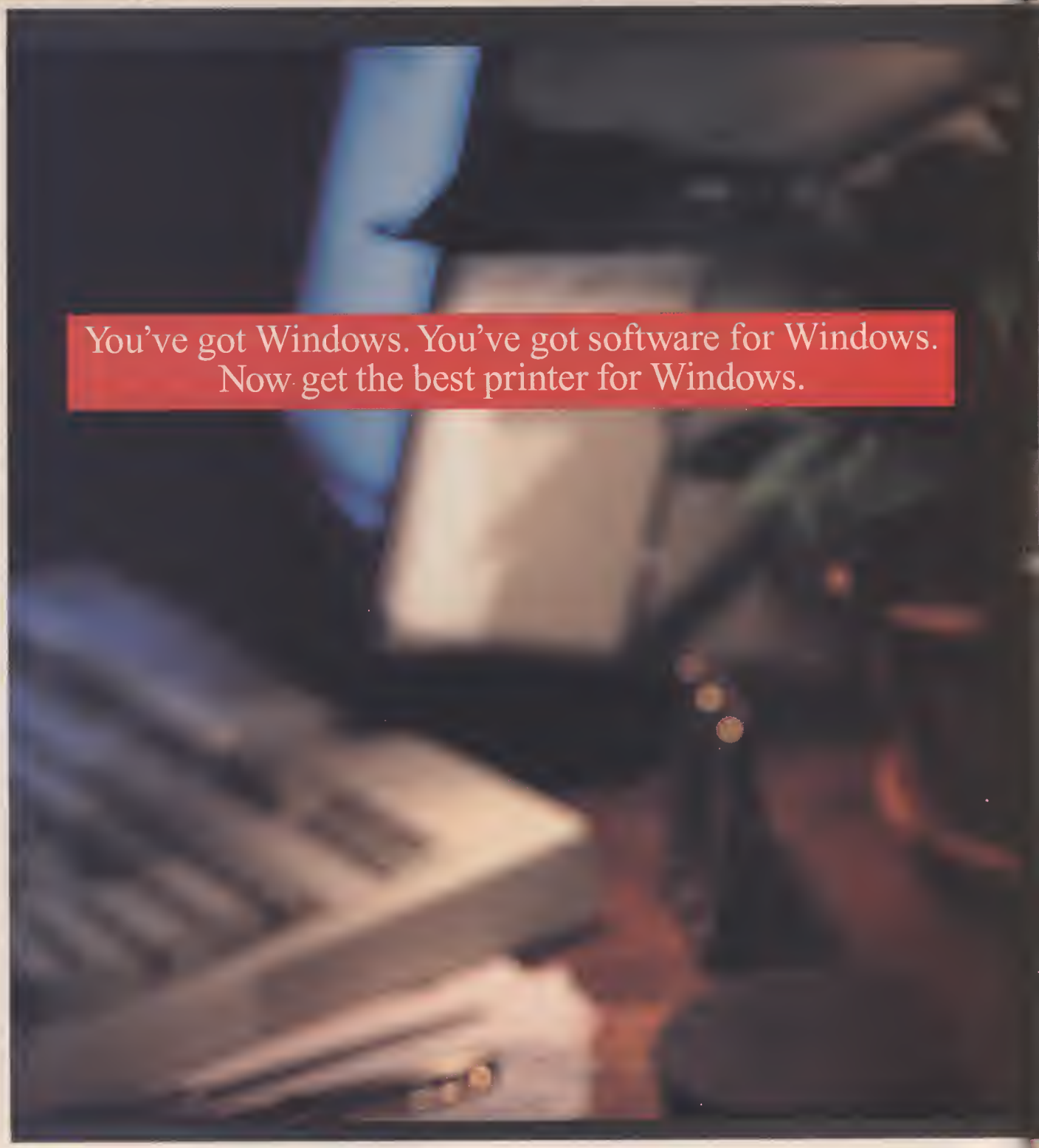
that automatically totals the order and gives you the choice of sending in your computer file directly by modem or on disk. Within days, the gift you created is on its way back to you or to the "gift-getter," complete with card and gift wrap.

So if you're looking for a way to create custom gifts guaranteed to get them grinning, there's only one conclusion to draw: Gift Maker.

The Easy Way to Create Personalized Gifts

MAXIS

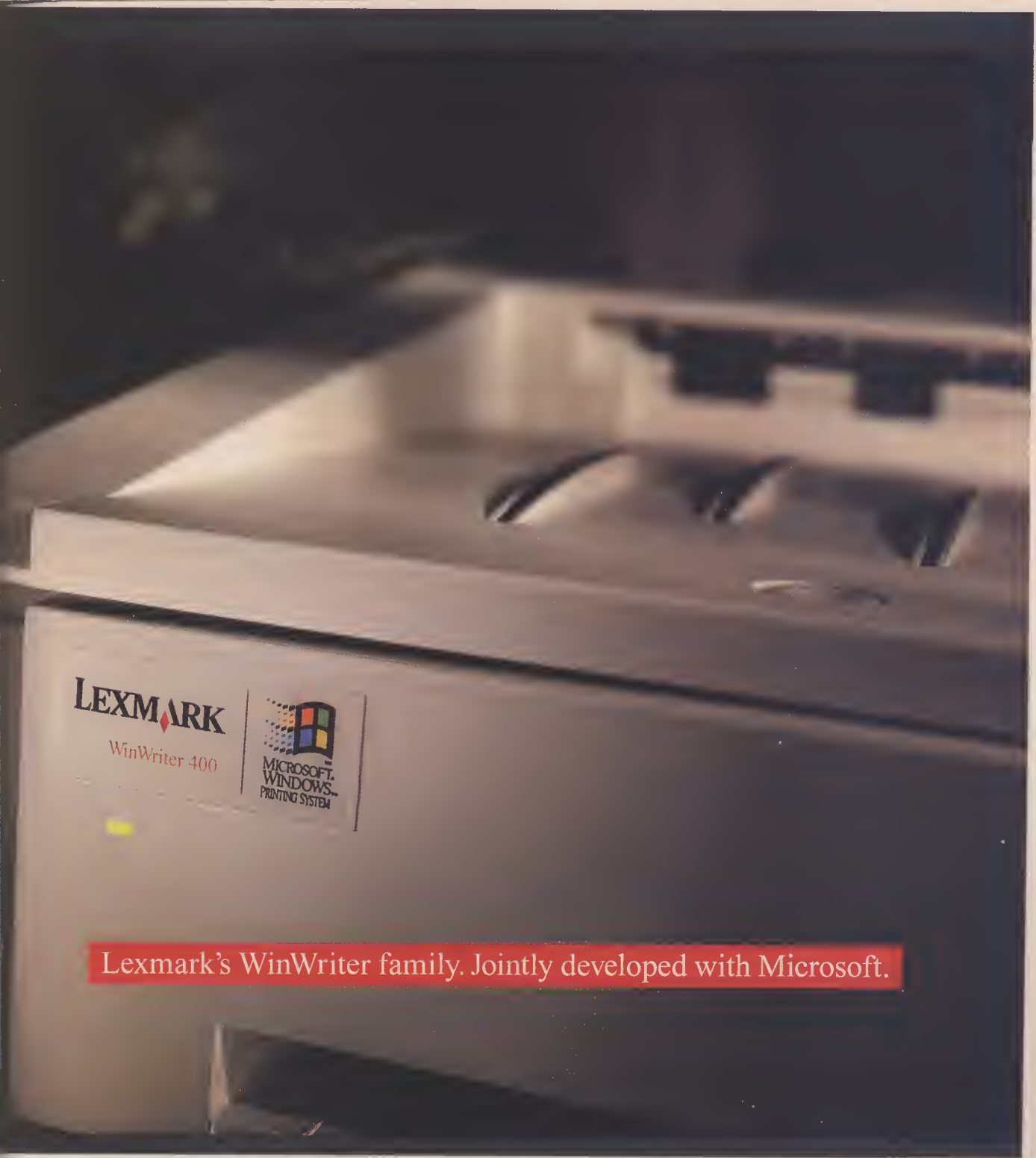
Now available for Windows. ©1994 Sim-Business. Software ©Austin-James. All rights reserved worldwide. Gift Maker is a trademark of Austin-James. Maxis is a registered trademark of Sim-Business. For product or ordering information, contact your local retailer or call 800-33-MAXIS.



Working hand in hand with Microsoft®, Lexmark has designed the new WinWriter™ family to work hand in hand with Windows.™ With the official Microsoft Windows Printing System, a WinWriter puts printer controls where they belong—right on your PC screen for point-and-click simplicity.

WinWriters also deliver true what-you-see-is-what-you-get output. No more surprises. No more wasted paper. Your WinWriter is designed to effortlessly share the processing power of your

Lexmark products are manufactured under the ISO 9002 approved quality process. The Energy Star emblem does not represent EPA endorsement of any product or service. Microsoft and the Windows



PC, too. So when you upgrade your computer, it's like upgrading your printer, free. That means investment protection is built in.

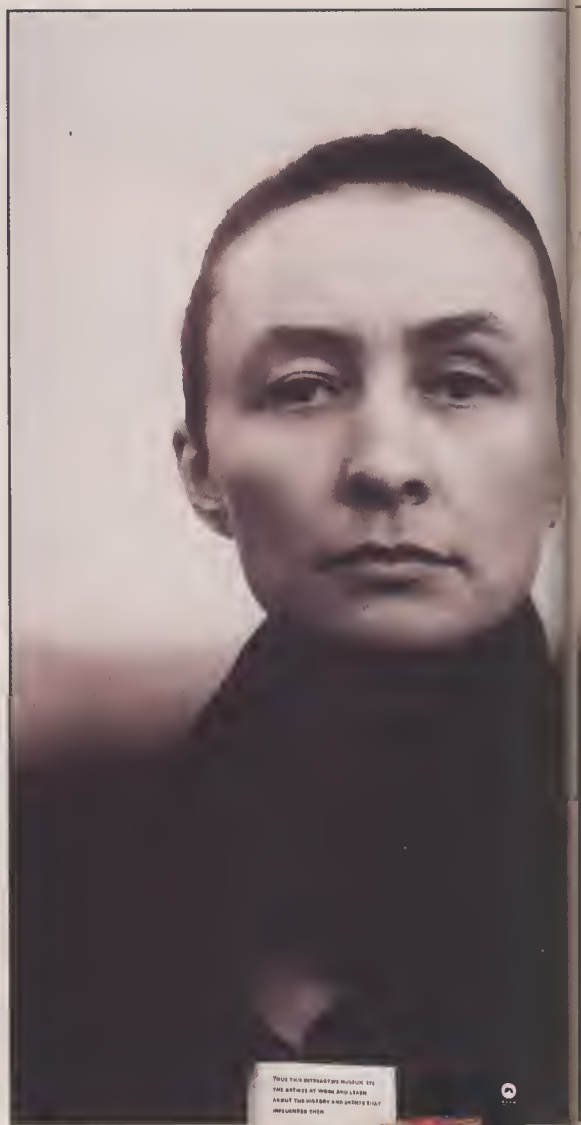
Every WinWriter—from the inexpensive inkjet model to the razor-sharp 600 dpi laser—delivers the quality and reliability you expect from Lexmark, a former division of IBM. The best way to learn more about the best printers for Windows? Just call **1 800 358-5835.**

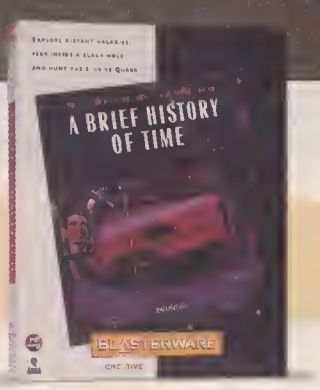
LEXMARK™

ADVANCING THE ART OF PRINTING

logo are registered trademarks and Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Lexmark and WinWriter are trademarks of Lexmark International, Inc. © 1994 Lexmark International, Inc.

BlasterWare. Softwa
from the makers





© 1994 Creative Technology Ltd. The Sound Blaster and Creative Logos are registered trademarks and BlasterWare, Creative VoiceAssist, ScreenSinger, Multimedia is Creative, and the BlasterWare and Sound Blaster Compatibility Logos

re for great thinkers
of great sound.

Introducing BlasterWare,™ a new line of interactive CD-ROM software from Creative Labs, the makers of Sound Blaster.™ These seven titles take multimedia to explosive new heights.

BLASTERWARE™

A Brief History of Time, based on the NY *Times* best-seller, explores space with Professor Stephen Hawking. *American Visions* turns the works of great artists into an interactive museum. And *The Gus series* brings educational software to a new level.

For closet crooners, there's also a karaoke sing-along in *ScreenSinger.*™ And the hottest new voice recognition software—*Creative VoiceAssist.*™

So for innovative and affordable multimedia CD-ROMs, look for the BlasterWare Logo or call 1-800-998-5227 Ext. 112. It's the best thing to happen to the planet since the Big Bang.

CREATIVE®
CREATIVE LABS, INC.
MULTIMEDIA IS CREATIVE™

...of Creative Technology Ltd. All other trademarks are the property of their respective holders. U.S. inquiries: Creative Labs 1-800-998-5227. International inquiries: Creative Technology Ltd., Singapore. TEL: 65-773-0233 FAX: 65-773-0353.

Until Now, Sound Cards Have Sounded Flat as a Board.

Introducing Vivid 3D Pro.

Surround Yourself with Vivid 3D Sound At Your PC.

The Vivid 3D Pro™ sound enhancement system from NuReality adds a new dimension of realism to multimedia sound. With patented SRS (●)® technology, the Vivid 3D Pro creates amazingly lifelike 3D sound *from only 2 speakers!*

> "(The Vivid 3D) definitely improves the aural excitement of any game...The stereo field appears much wider on stereo soundtracks, while mono sound effects and music become richer and more intense."
> —*Electronic Entertainment*, September 1994

The Vivid 3D Pro also incorporates a powerful built-in amplifier and sophisticated audio controls that let you customize your audio output.

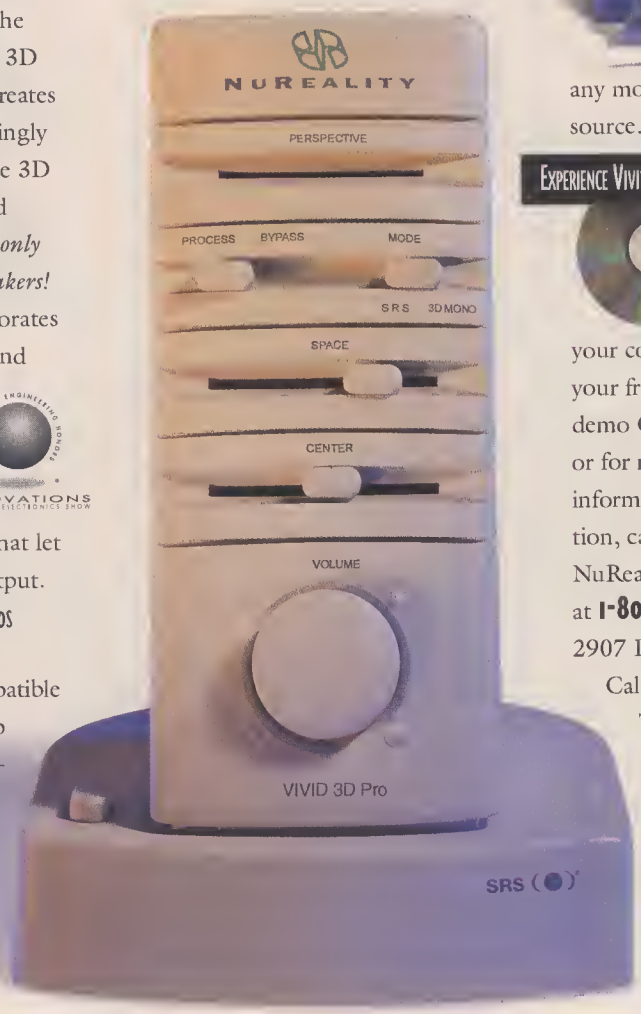
RETAILVISION 1994 Winner Best Product

GAME PLAYERS ULTIMATE

INNOVATIONS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

Compatible with All Sound Boards and Applications.

The Vivid 3D Pro is fully compatible with the Sound Blaster/AdLib standard and works with all 8-bit, 16-bit and wavetable sound cards. You can install the Vivid 3D Pro in under 5 minutes without any software.



What's more, the Vivid 3D Pro gives you the full effect of 3D sound from

any mono, stereo or encoded audio source. And with prices starting under $100, Vivid 3D products fit into your budget as easily as they fit into your computer system. To order your free* demo CD or for more information, call NuReality at **1-800-501-8086.** NuReality, 2907 Daimler St., Santa Ana, California 92705-5810. Telephone: 714-442-1080, Fax: 714-852-1059.

Experience Vivid 3D Sound FREE!*

> "97/100! .. the Vivid 3D is one of the best applications of an emerging technology that I have ever seen. Old games took on new life."
> —*Computer Game Review*, August 1994

NUREALITY

Now available at:

Babbage's · COMPUTER CITY · electronics boutique · COMPUSA THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE · ELEK-TEK The Computer Wonderland

*This specially recorded CD recreates the experience of Vivid 3D sound from any CD player. The demo CD is available for a $5.95 shipping and handling charge which will be fully credited toward the purchase of a Vivid 3D system. This offer applies only to Vivid 3D products purchased directly from NuReality.

The Vivid 3D sound enhancement system won the Retail Vision "Best Product" award in May 1994, and the Innovations award from the International Consumer Electronics Show in June 1994. Vivid 3D systems incorporate SRS (●) technology which won the "Ultimate" award from *Game Players* magazine in July 1993. © 1994 NuReality. All rights reserved. SRS (●) is a registered trademark of SRS Labs. All product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. MM2

consumer lab

YOU RATE THE PRODUCTS

Which PC is the top value? Our jury weighs the evidence

So, you've finally decided to buy a new home computer. Maybe it was your kids dropping hints about what their more technologically advanced peers were up to that convinced you to take the plunge. Or maybe you got tired of running out of memory in the middle of your game. Or that you've expanded your old computer so many times now and can't believe it's *still* overloaded. Or was it all the buzz about multimedia, and your realization that you can't run today's software on yesterday's PC?

Whatever your reasons, if you're buying a new computer this holiday season, you're ready to make a major investment: $2,000 or so for a system that will last you through the next few years. You're also looking at an array of choices that sometimes overwhelm even the most experienced computer owners, who are as likely as anyone to be taken aback by the slew of manufacturers, models, hardware and software configurations and prices available. Buzzwords and decisions abound. Should you get a Pentium 90 machine with 8 megabytes (MB) of RAM and a 340-MB hard disk, or are you better off with a multimedia 486DX2/66-based computer with a 540-MB hard disk for the same price? What's more important, available expansion slots or available drive bays? Do you need a fax/modem? What kind of monitor is best? Should it have a 15-inch screen or a 17-inch screen? And how are you supposed to know the difference?

For starters, it has more to do with how well the PC is designed for use in the home than how big the hard drive is or what kind of processor the machine has. Those technological factors are important, of course (for more information on hardware, see our PC Buyer's Guide on page 164), but there's much more to buying a computer these days than wading through an array of specifications and statistics.

The right computer should be easy to set up and run. It must have top-notch video and sound to help you get the most from the mul-

by sean fulton

Illustration by Chris Gould

timedia experience. And whether you want your computer to give your kids a hand with their homework, allow you to work or run a business from home, or serve as an all-purpose family entertainment center, the computer you buy needs to have the specific features that will serve you and your family well today *and* tomorrow. And, all things being equal, a computer has to look and feel good if you're going to fully enjoy using it.

This year's lineup of *home computers* is crammed with *tools, toys* and a few features you might not expect.

Candyce hooks into the possibilities of multimedia computing.

To help you zero in on the computer that's right for you, we asked 10 of the top PC makers to provide us with the model they expected to be their best seller among home users this holiday season; two manufacturers—Dell and NEC—were unable to deliver their products in time for testing. We invited 10 home computer users into our Consumer Lab to test products from the eight remaining vendors: Acer America's AcerAcros; Apple's Macintosh Performa 578; AST Research's Advantage! Adventure 4050d; Compaq's Presario CDS 860; Gateway 2000's Family PC; IBM's Aptiva 530; Micron's P90 PCI Family MPC; and Packard Bell's PB 486 DX2/66 Multimedia.

Our testers ranged in experience from novices with little home computing experience to "experts" who have been using computers at home for several years. Five of our testers—one novice, one expert and three users who rated their computer experience as "average"—put each of the eight computers through their paces. Each tester examined four machines, and no two testers looked at the same set of four. (To get to know our testers a little better, turn to page 217.)

After testers had spent two to three hours with each computer, we asked them what they liked and didn't like about the machine. We also asked them to estimate what price they'd expect to pay for each. Once they'd had a close look at all four computers in their group, we asked them to compare the different models, appraising the strengths and weaknesses of each. They awarded grades on a scale of A through F to each computer, but their comments in interviews and during the tests fleshed out their ratings—and gave us a sense of the features they liked best.

THE FINAL GRADES

Our testers' overall rankings

Packard Bell	**3.57**	**B+**
Apple	**3.5**	**B+**
IBM	**3.35**	**B+**
Acer	**3.34**	**B+**
AST	**3.24**	**B**
Compaq	**3.13**	**B**
Micron	**3.02**	**B**
Gateway	**2.94**	**B**

This year's models

Unlike the stripped-down office computers you may have bought in the not-so-distant past, this year's lineup of home computers is crammed with tools, toys and even a few features you might not expect to find on a PC.

All the new systems come complete with a CD-ROM drive, speakers and a built-in sound system. That surprised some of our testers. "When I first came here I thought of a computer as something to type reports on," said Candyce Goldstein, a computer user of average experience. "Speakers and CD-ROMs are things I never really thought about purchasing...now, if I were to buy [a computer] I would consider these options." Five out of eight computers they looked at had modems and supporting software that turns the PC into an answering machine. And the model from Packard Bell even comes with a built-in television connector, allowing you to watch TV on your computer screen.

If you took advantage of that feature,

Photographs by Kerry Kehoe

Meet *December's* Consumer Lab *testers*

(Top row, l. to r.)

Bill Albanese, 26, is an insurance underwriter who has been using PCs and mainframe computers at his office for about eight years. He describes his personal computing expertise as average.

Jamie Shebes, 29, manages a computer network; maintaining PCs is part of his job. He mainly uses his home computer—which he built himself—to play games and do work at home.

Linda Goodman, 44, is an interior designer who has two daughters, ages 6 and 13, and a Macintosh LC III computer at home. Everyone in the Goodman family uses the Mac, which resides in the playroom.

Michael Barenholtz, 35, is a metals trader. He owns two computers at home, one of which is a multimedia machine used by his entire family for education and entertainment. Michael considers himself above average in computer experience.

Candyce Goldstein, 49, is a secretary, mom, student and actress. She plans to buy a new PC within the next few months to replace her old Commodore computer, but she worries about buying a machine that will soon be "out of date."

(Bottom row, l. to r.)

Jillian Arrowood, 33, is a freelance writer and full-time mom who has been using personal computers for 10 years. She's currently quite satisfied with her 486DX2/66-based multimedia system.

Ronald Miller, 52, is a manager for an insurance company. He uses a 386-based notebook computer at home, mainly for word processing. When we asked him to assess his own computer expertise, he did not hesitate in his reply. "Below average."

Marlene Loewy, 33, is an administrative assistant who has been using PCs at work for 10 years. She is now shopping for her first home computer.

David Randel, 36, is a photographer who works in a photo store. He uses multimedia Macintosh computers and graphics programs both at home and at work.

Victoria Moy, 23, is a field engineer. She's been working with computers for five or six years, and uses her 386-based PC at home mainly for word processing.

(Top row, l. to r.) Albanese, Shebes, Goodman, Barenholtz, Goldstein; (bottom row, l. to r.) Arrowood, Miller, Loewy, Randel, Moy.

tuned in *Home Improvement* and heard Tim Allen joking about *more power*, you'd know the story of today's multimedia computers in a nutshell. To support the multimedia jamboree, computers sold for the home today are much faster than their predecessors were even a year ago, when a 486SX or DX processor running at 25 or 33 MHz was typical home equipment. Today's machines pack a 486DX2/50 processor—or an even more advanced chip—and they need it.

Nevertheless, while Intel, the leading manufacturer of PC processor chips, had been predicting that the powerful Pentium chip, which runs much faster than even a DX2/66, would be the standard for home PCs by the end of 1994, it seems that was a bit optimistic. Of the eight machines we looked at, only one, the Micron, is a Pentium-based machine. Computer makers say that although they will be offering Pentium-based systems in time for the holidays, they believe that, at least for now, their 486DX2-based systems offer enough power for most people, at a lower price.

Our testers seemed to agree, at least for the several hours they spent working with the machines in our Lab. No one saw a significant difference in performance between the Pentium- and the 486-based machines they looked at. To measure performance, we asked our testers to run a multimedia program or game on each computer for 20 to 30 minutes to get a feel for how it performed, in much the same way you can judge the roadworthiness of a car on a test drive. The result? For many home users, the difference between a

Vital statistics: inside eight *home computers*

Manufacturer and model name	***HomePC recommended***	**Acer America** ***AcerAcros***	**Apple Computer** ***Macintosh Performa 578***	**AST Research** ***Advantage! Adventure 4050d***
Processor	486DX2/66 or Pentium	486DX2/66	Motorola 68LC40 33-MHz	486DX2/50
Memory	8 megabytes (MB)	8 MB	8 MB	8 MB
Hard disk capacity	340 MB	540 MB	320 MB	420 MB
3½-inch floppy drive	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
5¼-inch floppy drive	Optional	No	No	No
No. of drive bays	5	4	3	3
No. of available drive bays	2	2	0	0
CD-ROM drive	Double-speed	Double-speed	Double-speed	Double-speed
Video	Super VGA	Super VGA	Integrated Macintosh color display	Enhanced VGA
Monitor	15-inch, non-interlaced	14-inch, non-interlaced	14-inch, RGB	14-inch, non-interlaced
Modem	9,600 bps data/ 14.4 Kbps fax	2,400 bps data/ 9,600 bps fax	2,400 bps data/ 9,600 bps fax	14.4 Kbps data/ 14.4 Kbps fax
Sound card	FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible	FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible	Apple proprietary sound system	FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible
No. of expansion slots	5 ISA and 3 PCI	4 ISA	1 processor-direct, 1 communications	4 ISA
No. of free expansion slots	3 ISA and 2 PCI	2 ISA	1 processor-direct, 1 communications	2 ISA
Speakers	4 watts	4 watts	Info not available	7 watts
Answering machine	Optional	Yes	No	Yes
TV hookup	Optional	No	No	No
Radio hookup	Optional	No	No	No
No. of preinstalled programs	10	12	15	29
Warranty	3 years	1 year on site	1 year	3 years (1 yr. on-site)
Technical support	Toll free, 24 hrs.	Toll-free, 24 hrs.	Toll-free, 12 hrs./day*	Toll-free, 24 hrs.
Extras	Joystick	None	Built-in microphone	99 voice mailboxes w/answering machine
Price	Under $2,000	$1,995	$2,099	$1,999

** Less on weekends. ** Monitor not included. Note: Configurations and prices were accurate at press time, but are subject to change at the manufacturer's discretion.*

Marlene got some setup practice—she's shopping for her first PC.

Pentium and a 486DX2/66 isn't significant—our testers, for example, rated the Micron below several 486-based systems for performance. Perhaps if they had spent time directly comparing two machines, one with a Pentium, one with a 486DX2/66, but otherwise equally equipped, they would have noticed more of a difference in performance.

And while there are scores of statistics proving that a high-end Pentium is faster than a high-end 486 processor chip, it's worth remembering that the processor is never wholly responsible for the speed of a given computer. Whatever speed a faster processor gives a PC, other parts of the machine, such as the video system, the hard disk, RAM and even today's increasingly complex software may affect it. So, for all the talk you'll hear about the speed

Compaq Computer ***Presario CDS 860***	**Gateway 2000** ***Family PC 4DX2/66***	**IBM** ***Aptiva 530***	**Micron** ***P90 PCI Family MPC***	**Packard Bell** ***PB 486 DX2/66 Multimedia***
486SX2/66	486DX2/66	486DX2/66	Pentium 90	486DX2/66
8 MB	8 MB	8 MB	8 MB	8 MB
340 MB	425 MB	424 MB	420 MB	540 MB
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
No	No	No	No	No
5	4	4	5	4
2	1	2	2	2
Double-speed	Double-speed	Double-speed	Double-speed	Double-speed
Enhanced VGA	Enhanced VGA	Super VGA	Super VGA	Enhanced VGA
15-inch, non-interlaced	14-inch, non-interlaced	15-inch, non-interlaced	15-inch, non-interlaced	15-inch, non-interlaced
14.4 Kbps data/ 14.4 Kbps fax	2,400 bps data / 9,600 bps fax	14.4 Kbps data/ 14.4 Kbps fax	14.4 Kbps data/ 14.4 Kbps fax	2,400 bps data/ 9,600 bps fax
FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible	FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible	Wavetable	FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible	FM synthesis/ Sound Blaster-compatible
5 ISA	5 ISA	4 ISA	5 ISA, 3 PCI	3 ISA
4 ISA	3 ISA	2 ISA	3 ISA, 2 PCI	1 ISA
1 watt	10 watts	30 watts	4 watts	4 watts
Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes
No	No	No	No	Yes
No	No	No	No	No
14	5	18	7	20
3 years (1 yr. on-site)	3 years	3 years	1 year	1 year on-site
Toll-free, 24 hrs.	Toll-free, 18 hrs./day*	Toll-free, 24 hrs.	Toll-free, 14 hrs./day*	Toll-free, 24 hrs.
Microphone	Installation videotape	Microphone/ voice recognition	Joystick	None
$1,899	$1,999	$1,899 **	$3,099	$2,500

and performance of the Pentium, 486DX2s still have a lot going for them, and will for quite some time.

Built-in telephone answering machines have become fairly common features in computers this season. Style has become more of a consideration, too; this year's machines look like they were made for a living room rather than a lab. Some PC makers are also providing higher-quality speakers. IBM, for example, is going all out by throwing in high-end sound technology and monster, 30-watt speakers that might fool you in a "Memorex" test between your computer and home stereo.

Ronald relaxes with Gateway's installation video in the Consumer Lab.

Hardware manufacturers haven't ignored software, either. Almost every computer we examined had a modified version of Windows to help users get started quickly and easily. Most have a "welcome center" that pops up on the screen when the computer starts up, which users can use to set up a printer, take a "guided tour" of the software loaded on the PC and even diagnose operating problems—either when they first get ready to use the system, or sometime down the road. All the machines come with a variety of software programs (often called "bundled software"), so users can start playing with their new toy as soon as they get it running.

In designing our Lab, we simulated the conditions that anyone would face after buying a new computer. Each tester received four different factory-packed units; each unpacked the computers and set them up in our labs. Then they spent about half an hour examining each computer, exploring the installed software as well as any enhancements or customized setup programs.

Next, we asked our testers to connect and install a Canon color ink jet printer to each machine and use it once to ensure that it was connected properly. Finally, we asked each tester to pick a multimedia program and run it for 20 to 30 minutes on all four computers in order to get a feel for performance.

Throughout, we asked our testers to evaluate each computer they examined on a grade

The *judges'* scorecards: Consumers grade *the computers*

Generally, the testers were happy with the computers they saw, giving no machine an overall grade lower than a B.

	Acer	Apple	AST	Compaq	Gateway	IBM	Micron	Packard Bell
Design	B+	A	B	B	B	B+	B	B+
Documentation	B+	B+	B	B	C+	B	C+	A
Ease of installation	B+	A	A	B+	B	B+	B	A
Monitor quality	B	B+	B+	B	B	B+	B+	B+
Package organization	B+	B+	B+	B+	B	B+	B+	B+
Performance	B+	B+	B	B+	B	B+	B	B+
Software bundle	B+	B	B+	B+	B	B+	B	B+
Sound quality	C+	B	C+	C+	C+	B+	C+	B+
Value	B+	B+	B	B	B	B	B	B+
Overall score	3.34 (B+)	3.5 (B+)	3.24 (B)	3.13 (B)	2.94 (B)	3.35 (B+)	3.02 (B)	3.57 (B+)

GIVE THE KIDS MORE TO SAY ON THEIR NEXT VACATION THAN "ARE WE THERE YET?"

WOULD YOU HAVE GUESSED DELAWARE'S STATE BIRD IS A HEN?

NOW AVAILABLE FOR YOUR MPC OR MACINTOSH HOME COMPUTER.

Ah, the joys of the family vacation. The maps. The luggage. The dull and endless interstate. But instead of just complaining, the kids are in the back seat acting like tour guides. Is this a miracle? No, they must have the Rand McNally Children's Atlas of the United States, on CD-ROM. 52 beautifully rendered maps you'll never have to fold. Complete, narrated text of the Rand McNally Children's Atlas. And a description of every state's geography, history, famous people and points of interest, that is both educational and entertaining. (Also known by the rather hip new computer term "edu-tainment.")

LET THE KIDS STAY AT THE DOVER HOUSE.

and Clarke, eat your hearts out.)

When the exploration of the US is over, you can test your knowledge in any one of 6 computer games. And, just like every other computer game, your kids will probably beat you. The interactive Rand McNally Children's Atlas of the United States. All you really need now are directions to the store.

FIND THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE IN D.C. & ARKANSAS.

Continuing in this theme, over 200 photos and animations bring every state to life. Birds sing. Flags flutter. Hot springs gurgle. Landmarks from all fifty states appear in animated scenes, with fully narrated text and digital sound effects. (Lewis

THEY'LL SPOT THESE INSTEAD OF FAST FOOD SIGNS.

RAND McNALLY

CHILDREN'S ATLAS OF THE UNITED STATES

"HEY KIDS, ARE THOSE ILLINOIS STATE VIOLETS?"

GAMETEK

Software and packaging ©1994 GameTek, Inc. GameTek is a trademark of I.J.E., Inc. All rights reserved. 2999 N.E. 191 St. Suite 500, Aventura, FL 33180. Rand McNally Children's Atlas of the United States was produced under license using maps and textual materials ©1994 Rand McNally and Co. Photos courtesy of © Archive Photos. For more information, call 1-800-GAMETEK.

David, a photographer, focuses in on a manual; most of our testers said they found the computers' documentation helpful.

scale (A to F) in a number of categories, including design (did the computer look good, and was it logically laid out?); documentation (how helpful were the manuals for setting up and using the computer?); ease of installation (was it easy to assemble and use?); monitor quality (was the image crisp and clear?); package organization (were the components packaged to make setup easier?); performance (was the computer fast enough?); software bundle (was the software that comes with the computer interesting and useful?); sound quality (how good was the audio produced by the computer?); and value (given everything that comes with the computer, and its list price, would you call it a good value?).

We followed up each test with a detailed interview, in which we asked our testers to compare and contrast the features and fine points of the four machines they used. We wanted them to focus on the experience of setting up and using the computers, rather than comparing them to an abstract feature list or set of performance statistics.

Once we collected all the grades, we converted them into a number scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, etc.) in order to figure overall averages. Those numerical equivalents also enabled us to make distinctions between two seemingly identical grades. For example, two computers that averaged a 3.2 and a 2.9 in a given category would both receive a B for that category, but one machine clearly did better than the other. These distinctions are reflected in our reviews. For a look at how the machines fared, see the charts on pages 216, 220 and below.

All the computers our testers examined in the Lab impressed them—none rated less than a B overall, which bodes well for new buyers who worry about spending a lot of money on a computer they may not love. But in the final analysis, it was easy to find a favorite: Packard Bell's PB 486 DX2/66 Multimedia won acclaim from our testers for having the best documentation (A), the best monitor (B+) and, most important, the best setup features. Indeed, ease-of-use is such a critical factor in buying a home computer today, that it made the Packard Bell (which earned an A from our group for ease of installation) the most popular choice. "You don't have to flip through 40 pages of text to find out what you want to know," said Jamie Shebes. "Any Santa's helper can get this computer at 4 a.m. and have it set up by 9 a.m." Just the thing to make your family's holiday complete.

(Reviews begin on page 224. *Research assistance for this Lab test was provided by John Catrona, David Galletta, Patrick Gaynor, Melissa Gelb, Jennifer Triverio and Sun Ying Tam. Additional reporting by Judy Hogan and Gary Joyce.)*

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The top grades in each category

Design	**Apple**	**A**
Documentation	**Packard Bell**	**A**
Ease of installation	**Apple**	**A**
	AST	**A**
	Packard Bell	**A**
Monitor quality	**Packard Bell**	**B+**
Package organization	**Apple**	**B+**
Performance	**IBM**	**B+**
	Apple	**B+**
	Compaq	**B+**
Software bundle	**Compaq**	**B+**
Sound quality	**IBM**	**B+**
Value	**Apple**	**B+**

"Now that we know

CHARTER SAVINGS CERTIFICATE

SAVE 41%

HOMEPC

YES, I want to subscribe today and save. Please send me 12 issues for just $12.97. That's a savings of 41% off the basic annual rate. Plus, I'll receive a free gift with my paid subscription, the "HomePC FunPak" disk full of fun and useful software programs.

Plus FREE GIFT

Send no money now. We'll bill you later.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT)

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP

Basic annual subscription rate: $21.97. Canadian subscriptions are $22.97 per year, (Canadian GST is included). Foreign subscription rate is $39.97, U.S. funds, prepaid only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery of first issue.

6412NL

SAVE 41%

SAVE 41%

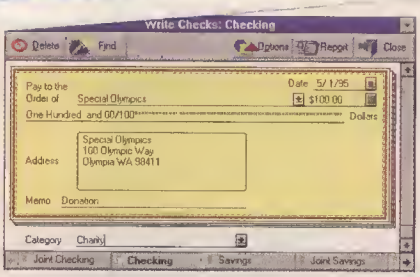
Quicken showed us how."

and Whiskers the dog, Austin, Texas.

"The charts and graphs allow us to instantly see what money's coming in and where it's going with just a mouseclick."

John: **"We're finally in control of our money,** because now we know where it's going. There's never a question of who's spending what or when. The charts and graphs tell us exactly how much money goes to the groceries, children's clothing, insurance, you name it — it's quite an eye opener."

Nancy: **"We were up and running with Quicken right away.** Didn't even open the manual at first. We reconcile our accounts to the penny — in just a few minutes. Last year, we did the taxes in an hour and a half, then used the free time to go to the movies!"



"Paying the bills is a piece of cake. Quicken's checkwriting screen looks and works just like our old paper checkbook."

John: **"We're planning our second vacation this year!** Quicken showed us where we could put the money aside to pay for it. It not only helps us determine our budget, but tells us how much we can cut back and how much extra we have."

John: "Everyone can afford Quicken."

Nancy: **"We tell our friends you can't afford not to have it.** We're going to get our kids going on Quicken the second they have a bank account, so they know where their money is going from day one. We should have been so lucky!"

Try Quicken for just $9.95

Call 1-800-781-5999

ext. 810022

24 hours a day, 7 days a week U.S. & Canada

No-risk 60-day money back guarantee

Available for DOS, Windows and Macintosh. Feature sets vary

Organizes finances painlessly.

©1994 Intuit Inc. 2650 E. Elvira, Tucson, AZ 85706. International shipping extra. Expires 3/31/95.

Dav
teste

sca
clu
an
(h
an
(w
q
p
p
n
v
v
s

that category, but one machine clearly did better than the other. These distinctions are reflected in our reviews. For a look at how the machines fared, see the charts on pages 216, 220 and below.

All the computers our testers examined in the Lab [illegible] rated

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

HOMEPC
P.O. BOX 420212
PALM COAST FL 32142-9468

duced by the [illegible]
everything that comes with the computer, [illegible] its list price, would you call it a good value?).

We followed up each test with a detailed interview, in which we asked our testers to compare and contrast the features and fine points of the four machines they used. We wanted them to focus on the experience of setting up and using the computers, rather than comparing them to an abstract feature list or set of performance statistics.

Once we collected all the grades, we converted them into a number scale (A=4, B=3, C=2, etc.) in order to figure overall averages. Those numerical equivalents also enabled us to make distinctions between two seemingly identical grades. For example, two computers that averaged a 3.2 and a 2.9 in a given category would both receive a B for

Melissa Getz, [illegible] Tam. Additional reporting by Judy Hogan and Gary Joyce.)

AND THE WINNERS ARE...

The top grades in each category

Design	**Apple**	**A**
Documentation	**Packard Bell**	**A**
Ease of installation	**Apple**	**A**
	AST	**A**
	Packard Bell	**A**
Monitor quality	**Packard Bell**	**B+**
Package organization	**Apple**	**B+**
Performance	**IBM**	**B+**
	Apple	**B+**
	Compaq	**B+**
Software bundle	**Compaq**	**B+**
Sound quality	**IBM**	**B+**
Value	**Apple**	**B+**

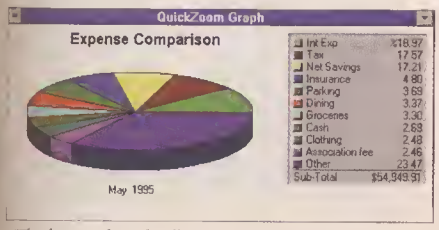
"Now that we know where our money is going, we're on our way!"

John Marshall
Nancy Marshall

"We're planning our second vacation this year! Quicken showed us how."
John Marshall, freelance videographer, with his wife Nancy, son John Glenn and Whiskers the dog, Austin, Texas.

John: "**Before Quicken, doing the finances was truly painful.** I still remember how many boxes full of bills and paperwork we used to have!"

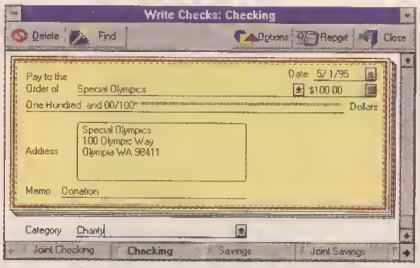
Nancy: "**Now life is a whole lot easier** with all our bank accounts, loans, credit cards and investments together in one place – on Quicken!"



"The charts and graphs allow us to instantly see what money's coming in and where it's going with just a mouseclick."

John: "**We're finally in control of our money,** because now we know where it's going. There's never a question of who's spending what or when. The charts and graphs tell us exactly how much money goes to the groceries, children's clothing, insurance, you name it – it's quite an eye opener."

Nancy: "**We were up and running with Quicken right away.** Didn't even open the manual at first. We reconcile our accounts to the penny – in just a few minutes. Last year, we did the taxes in an hour and a half, then used the free time to go to the movies!"



"Paying the bills is a piece of cake. Quicken's checkwriting screen looks and works just like our old paper checkbook."

John: "**We're planning our second vacation this year!** Quicken showed us where we could put the money aside to pay for it. It not only helps us determine our budget, but tells us how much we can cut back and how much extra we have."

John: "**Everyone can afford Quicken.**"

Nancy: "**We tell our friends you can't afford not to have it.** We're going to get our kids going on Quicken the second they have a bank account, so they know where their money is going from day one. We should have been so lucky!"

Try Quicken for just $9.95

Call 1-800-781-5999
ext. 810022
24 hours a day, 7 days a week U.S. & Canada

No-risk 60-day money back guarantee

Available for DOS, Windows and Macintosh. Feature sets vary.

Organizes finances painlessly.

©1994 Intuit Inc. 2650 E. Elvira, Tucson, AZ 85706. International shipping extra. Expires 3/31/95.

• Acer America AcerAcros

B+

Scorecard
Highest grade:
Design: **B+**

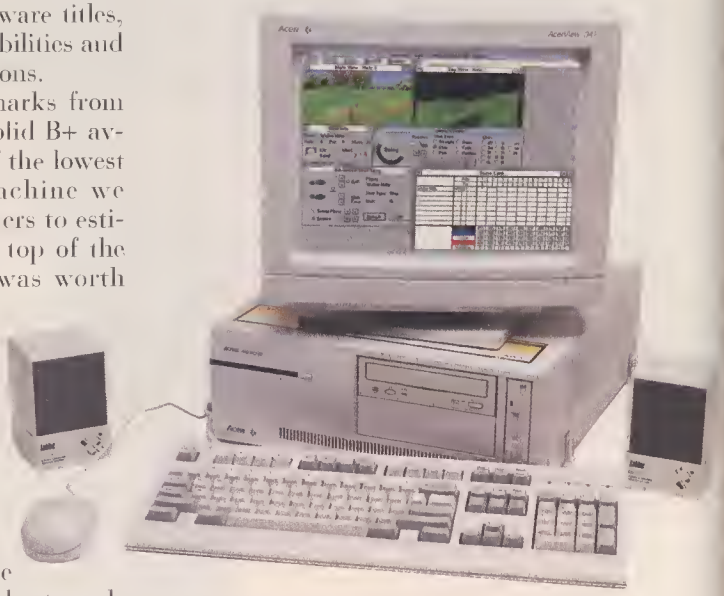
Lowest grade:
Sound quality: **C+**

Specs
486DX2/66, 8 megabytes of RAM, 540-MB hard disk, 4-watt external speakers, SuperVGA video card.

Software
12 programs included.

The AcerAcros was originally designed for office use; to make it cozier for the home, Acer now packages it with a dozen software titles, telephone answering machine capabilities and easy-to-follow installation instructions.

The computer received high marks from our testers across the board—a solid B+ average—and although it has one of the lowest list prices ($1,995) of any machine we looked at, when we asked our testers to estimate its price, they put it at the top of the scale—that is, they thought it was worth more than its $1,995 price tag.

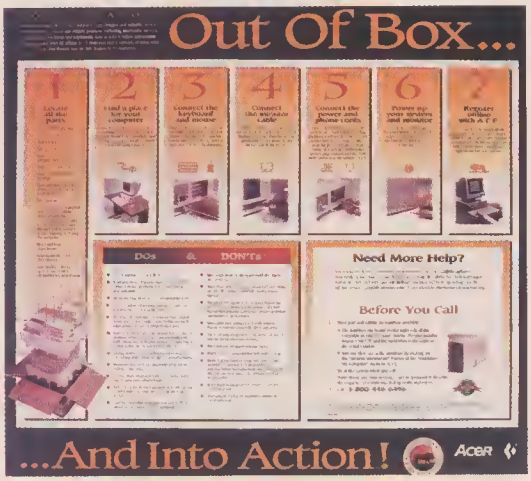


"You get a lot with it, not just the standard [stuff]," said Candyce Goldstein, who considers herself an "average" user.

All four of the testers who spent some time with this machine thought it had a good mix of home software titles, and they appreciated its stylish design, the category in which it netted its highest grade (B+). They also doled out high marks for performance to this 486-based machine, giving it a better overall grade than, for example, Micron's Pentium-based computer.

> ***"You get a lot with it, not just the standard [stuff]"*** **—Candyce Goldstein**

Testers also appreciated finding a large cardboard placard of step-by-step setup instructions at the top of the shipping box. And everyone agreed the connections for each component were clearly marked, which helped make the installation relatively easy.



Acer makes setup clear right from the start.

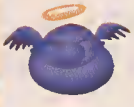
On the other hand, although our testers liked most of the components on this computer, the speakers struck a sour note with just about everyone. While this machine won B+ ratings in almost all other categories, our testers gave it a C+ for sound quality.

Two of the testers were annoyed by the way the monitor was packed—when you open the box, the monitor stand is upside down at the top. Now, this may seem like a trivial matter, but it's the little things that count, especially for those who have little computing experience.

"The only trouble I had was with the monitor stand," said Candyce. "I thought the box was upside down so I turned it around," added an exasperated Jillian Arrowood.

In the end, however, everyone who examined the Acros said it was easy to set up and use, and, overall, it landed squarely in the middle of the pack.

Software: America Online, Epic Pinball, Fax Software, Internet Software, Math Blaster, Microsoft (MS) Encarta, MS Golf, MS Productivity Pack, MS Sound Clip, MS Works, Prodigy, Quicken.

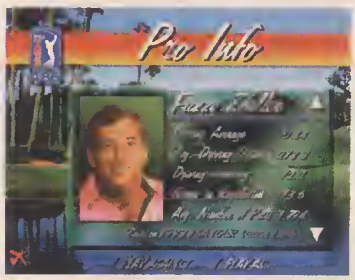


GOOD NEWS
- Step-by-step setup instructions
- Software 'welcome center'

BAD NEWS
- Poor speakers
- Confusing packaging

All the biggest names in golf. Including yours.

The Swings: Each pro was filmed then digitized into the game. Drives, fairway irons, chips, sandblasts and putts are seamlessly overlayed onto majestic TPC courses.



The Pros: Go head to head against them, or step into the shoes of 9 different featured pros. Listen to their tips. Learn about their greatest moments.

The 486 Technology: The new Target Arc™ System enables you to visualize your shot and control ball spin before you swing. A snap-around view, mutiple camera angles, mutimedia video, digitized speech, and a quick redraw rate combine to make the most realistic golf simulation ever.

PGA TOUR 486

IBM PC-CD

EA SPORTS.

You're paired with Stadler, trying to catch Kite on the back 9 of Sawgrass. First you made the cut. Now you're in the money and have a shot at a PGA TOUR® victory. PGA TOUR® Golf 486 has the pros, the pressure, the courses, the yips.

EA SPORTS™
It's in the game.™

The Formats: The ultimate challenge is tournament play. But stroke, match, and Skins are options.

The Courses: Play the most diverse and challenging of the famous TPC courses: Sawgrass, Summerlin and River Highlands. Constructed from the actual blueprints, the courses are so real that players can actually feel the different course personalities.

EA SPORTS, the EA SPORTS logo, "It's in the game," and Target Arc are trademarks of Electronic Arts. PGA TOUR, the TOUR logo, the Tournament Players Club and TPC are registered trademarks of PGA TOUR, Inc. and used by permission.

• Apple Macintosh Performa 578

B+

Scorecard

Highest grade: Ease of installation; design: **A**

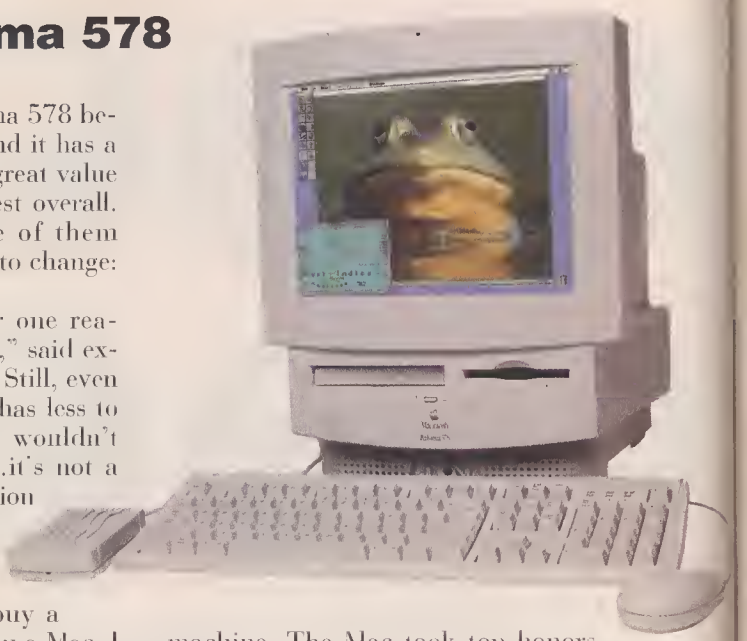
Lowest grade: Sound quality: **B**

Specs

An all-in-one Macintosh based on the Motorola 68LC40 33-MHz processor, 8 megabytes of RAM, 320-MB hard disk, internal speakers, integrated color display.

Software

15 programs included.



Our testers loved the Apple Performa 578 because it's easy to set up, it's fast and it has a helpful manual. They deemed it a great value and ranked the machine second-best overall. The problem is that what some of them didn't love is impossible for Apple to change: The Performa is a Macintosh.

"I ruled out the Macintosh for one reason—I'm a groomed Windows user," said experienced user Michael Barenholtz. Still, even he acknowledged that his attitude has less to do with facts than familiarity. "I wouldn't buy a Mac," he continued, "but...it's not a question of not liking it, it's a question of not being used to it."

Countered David Randel, an avowed Macintosh enthusiast, "I still wonder why anyone would buy a PC-compatible when they could buy a Mac. I have always been attracted to Macs because they're so easy to use. All I had to do was plug it in."

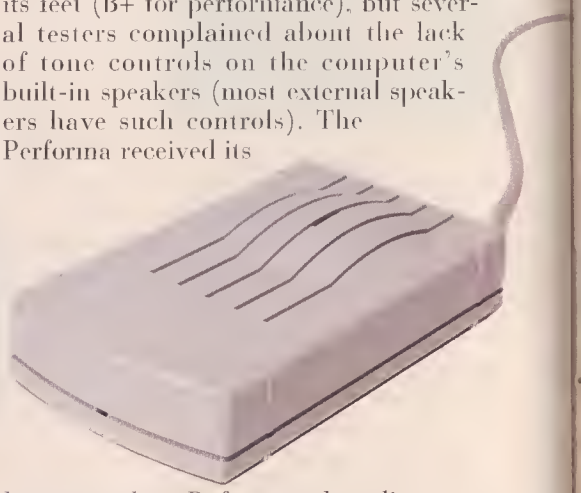
The battle among computer users over which is "better," a PC running Windows or a Macintosh, is the high-tech equivalent of the Hundred Years' War, so we selected a balanced mix of five testers—two PC users, two Mac users and a novice—to examine the Performa. All five liked Apple's interface, but how it rated compared to Windows depended on whether they'd used Macs in the past. "It's a different world, but once you use it, it's OK," said Jillian Arrowood, an "average" PC user. "This was difficult for me because I'm so PC-oriented."

"Macs are so easy to use. All I had to do was plug it in." **—David Randel**

The Performa is a one-piece computer, with the monitor mounted on top of the main processor unit and the speakers built into the machine. The Mac took top honors for design (A). "I'd like that in my home, it's one piece of furniture," said Jillian.

Installation was made simpler by the step-by-step setup instructions packed at the top of the box. "You see it right away and there aren't a lot of steps to it," said Michael.

All of the testers who used the Performa said it was quick on its feet (B+ for performance), but several testers complained about the lack of tone controls on the computer's built-in speakers (most external speakers have such controls). The Performa received its lowest grade, a B, for sound quality.



Overall, though, our testers liked setting up and using the Performa, and it impressed everyone with its sleek design and elegant ease of use. For people interested in a Macintosh, this one proved to be a winner.

GOOD NEWS

- Easy to assemble
- Easy to use
- It's a Macintosh!

BAD NEWS

- Few options for expansion
- Poor sound
- It's a Macintosh...

Software: America Online, American Heritage Dictionary 3rd Edition, At Ease, Best of Homeworks Templates, Claris Works 2.0, Click Art Performa Collection, Dinosaurs-CD, The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia CD, Macintosh PC Exchange 1.03, Mario Teaches Typing 1.0, Quicken 4.0, Spectre Challenger, Super Munchers, Wacky Jack's CD Game Show, 1993 Time Magazine Almanac-CD.

This is how Mommy and Daddy talk to our computer

I have my own line

New Software:
"Christmas in ComfyLand"
& "The Great Concert"
available now!

Introducing Comfy -
the innovative educational way to introduce your preschooler to your computer

If your child is 2 to 6 years old and you own a PC, then you have the beginning of a unique educational experience. Now all you need is Comfy, the first integrated hardware/software package designed specifically for preschoolers.

Featured on **Good Morning America** and **The Today Show**, Comfy lets your child actually direct interactive, animated ComfyLand movies using a revolutionary keyboard - controlling the story sequence, influencing various story elements and even calling the characters! For 2 to 3 years olds, this is a colorful introduction to basic computer skills. For 4 to 6 years olds, Comfy is a fun, stimulating learning experience that can be enjoyed without parental supervision. And for you, Comfy is a serious educational system that improves your child's motor skills, enriches vocabulary and teaches basic social values, and lots more. There's even a special evaluation feature that describes your child's performance!

To get your kids into Comfy, visit your nearest computer, consumer electronic, or toy store or call our toll free number.

Call: 1-800-99-COMFY

Comfy Interactive Movies Inc.
1556 Halford Avenue, Suite # 202 Santa Clara, CA 95051-2694
Fax: 408-733-6714

Comfy Interactive Movies™

• AST Advantage! Adventure 4050d

B

Scorecard

Highest grade:
Ease of installation: **A**

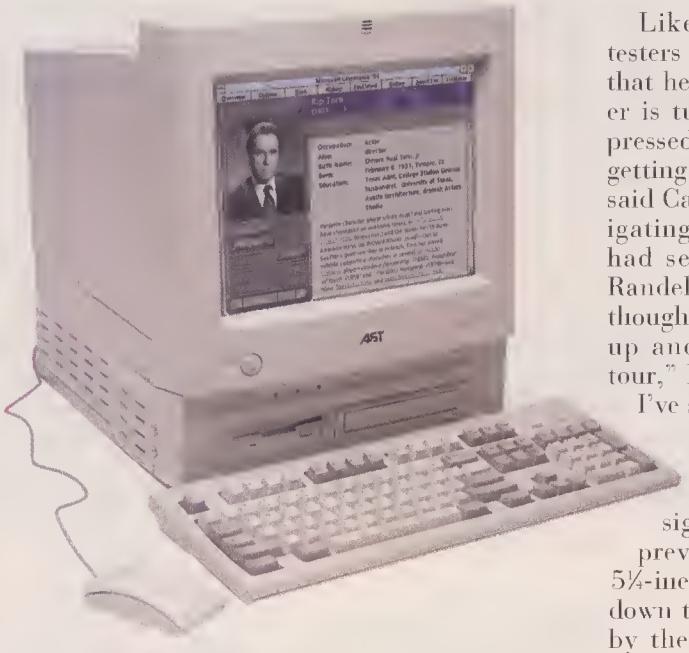
Lowest grade:
Sound quality:
C+

Specs

An all-in-one 486DX2/50, 8 megabytes of RAM, 420-MB hard disk, 7-watt internal speakers, enhanced VGA video card.

Software

29 programs included.



The AST Advantage Adventure is an easy-to-use, all-in-one 486-based computer that comes with a generous selection of 29 software programs and a built-in telephone answering system.

"These all-in-one setups are wonderful," said experienced computer user Michael Barenholtz. "Three or four plugs and you're ready to rock and roll. Start fooling around with the programs and get to the manuals later."

This computer has one of the lowest prices ($1,999) of the models we looked at, and it comes with a built-in 14-inch monitor and a 14.4bps fax/data modem that doubles as your home telephone answering system. Some of our testers appreciated the extended answering capabilities, but others were less impressed. "My use of the computer isn't as a phone center," explained Candyee Goldstein.

Most of the software shipped with the Advantage Adventure is installed on the hard drive. That's not unusual—many manufacturers load at least some of the software they ship with their PCs onto the hard disk. But it's a practice that clearly annoys some users, who feel that it unnecessarily clutters the hard disk with software they don't want; in AST's case, that's almost 30 programs. To make matters worse, those programs are organized in a way that didn't please all our testers, who would rather customize their files themselves.

"The only thing I don't like about this is that the programs are clustered together the way *they* deem appropriate, rather than the way you deem appropriate," Michael said.

Like most of the other computers our testers saw, the AST has a "welcome center" that helps new users as soon as the computer is turned on. But not everyone was impressed with AST's version. "I had trouble getting out of the 'Getting Started' section," said Candyee. She also had a hard time navigating Windows because of the way AST had set it up. On the other hand, David Randel, our avowed Macintosh enthusiast, thought the AST was great. "Once you get it up and running, they give you a guided tour," he said. "It's the nicest help [feature] I've seen so far."

Several users criticized what they said was a lack of expandability. Mostly because of its all-in-one design, the AST has no free drive bays, preventing you from adding an external 5¼-inch floppy drive or a backup tape drive down the road. But others weren't bothered by the omission. "If you want a compact unit that you can send away with your kid to school, this is [it]," Michael said. "I think the machine is designed for a real novice, someone who really doesn't know their way around the PC."

"If you want a compact unit that you can send with your kid to school, this is [it]." **—Michael Barenholtz**

Overall, our testers liked this computer because it was easy to set up, install and use. If fewer software titles had been loaded onto the hard drive, this machine, which ranked fifth in our ratings, would have done better.

Software: America Online, AST Multimedia Experience, Banners, CompuServe, Contact Manager, Delrina WinFax Lite, Diary, Graphics Manager, Greeting Cards, Home Inventory, ImagiNation Network, Investment Calculator, Loan Calculator, Lotus Organizer, Math Card, Microsoft (MS) Cinemania, MS Encarta, MS Entertainment Pack, MS Golf, MS Works for Multimedia, Name Tags, Notices, Phone Center, Photographics, Prodigy, Quicken for Windows, Savings Calculator, Vehicle Maintenance, 800 Phonebook Directory.

GOOD NEWS

- All-in-one design
- Software 'welcome center'
- Lots of software titles

BAD NEWS

- Few options for expansion
- Software overload
- Poor speakers

BRAVO!

"The whole thing is so well done it's hard to believe." —THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BRAVO!

"...a well-produced, truly multimedia experience... the whole family will enjoy." — MAC HOME JOURNAL

BRAVO!

"...an entertaining and educational presentation of Leonardo's life and works." — NEW YORK TIMES

BRAVO!

"...stunning tribute to the original Renaissance man...first-class narration...delicious graphics, and video clips..." — ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

BRAVO!

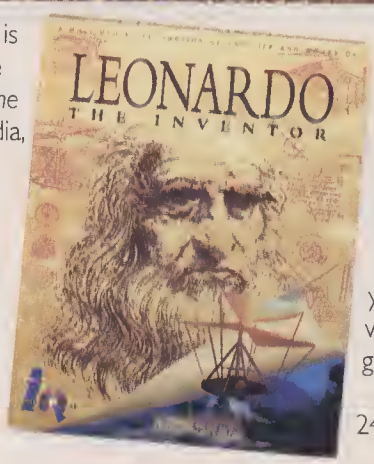
"Leonardo would have loved it." — NEWSWEEK

BRAVO!

"I...came away with a renewed fascination for the remarkable burst of invention and energy that occurred during the Renaissance." — CD-ROM WORLD

500 years after his death, Leonardo Da Vinci is getting his best reviews. Actually, the reviews are for an amazing new CD-ROM called *Leonardo the Inventor*. It's produced by Future Vision Multimedia, and the critics and public are raving about it. All it takes is one look to see what the excitement is about.

You'll find, thanks to the magic of multimedia and 3-D animation, Leonardo and his incredible inventions spring to life before your eyes. The flying machine, weapons of war, suspension bridge, even the drum machine are transformed by highly sophisticated animation into reality,



500 years after they were first conceived.

And *Leonardo* is interactive, so you can decide which inventions you want demonstrated. Or you can view Leonardo's biography, a timeline of his life or just play a game. It's entertainment and education for the whole family.

But don't take the critics' word for it, let your family experience the fun, excitement and wonder of *Leonardo*. Then you can go out and rave about it yourself.

Visit your local retailer or call our 24-hour hot line at (800) 472-8777.

FUTURE VISION MULTIMEDIA

© 1994 Future Vision Multimedia, Inc., a subsidiary of Future Vision Holding, Inc. All rights reserved.

• Compaq Presario CDS 860

B

Scorecard

Highest grade:
Software bundle: **B+**

Lowest grade:
Sound quality: **C+**

Specs

486SX2/66, 8 megabytes of RAM, 340-MB hard disk, 1-watt external speakers, enhanced VGA video card.

Software

14 programs included.

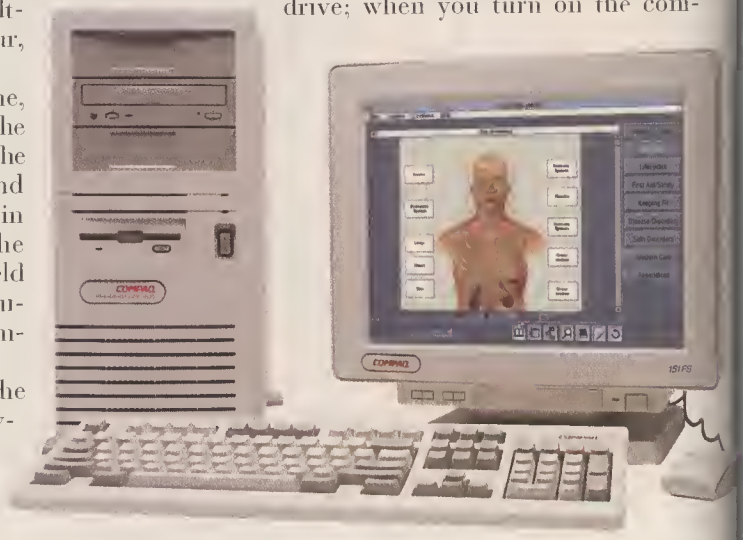
When it was introduced last May, the Compaq Presario CDS 860 was a groundbreaker. One of the first multimedia computers designed specifically for home users, it sported such innovative features as a built-in answering machine and 24-hour, toll-free technical support.

Compaq introduced its new line, the 900 series, in September, but the company expects to be shipping the 860s well into the new year. And even though the other machines in our Lab tests came out after the Presario, the Compaq machine held its own. "I was glad to see they included so much stuff with this computer," said Ronald Miller.

Some people didn't care for the Compaq's mini-tower design, however—all the other machines our testers looked at are flat desktop units. "The thing about the mini-tower is that it's odd looking," said Jillian Arrowood. "Is it supposed to be on the desk or the floor? I don't know. It wouldn't fit on my computer furniture."

Most of those who examined the Presario liked TabWorks, an alternative to the Windows Program Manager that is made by Xerox and which Compaq installs on the Presario's hard disk. TabWorks organizes programs into "pages" in a graphical "book." While all our testers said they would need more time to get familiar with the system, they appreciated Compaq's effort to make the Presario easier to use by including the program.

Unfortunately, no one liked the way in which Compaq put the software on the machine in the first place. Instead of simply installing the programs, Compaq compresses the software on the computer's hard drive; when you turn on the computer for the first time, it begins a 30-minute unpacking process during which all the programs, some of which you may not even want, are installed. "I turned it on and boom, it kept running and I had nothing to tell me how long it was going to take," said Jillian. "I'm so impatient, I can't wait to get into a computer. I think it took over a half hour to load the programs."



"I was glad to see they included so much stuff with this computer." **—Ronald Miller**

Despite that lengthy installation process, our testers liked the Presario overall, giving it noticeably high marks for its software selection, ease of use and performance (all B+).

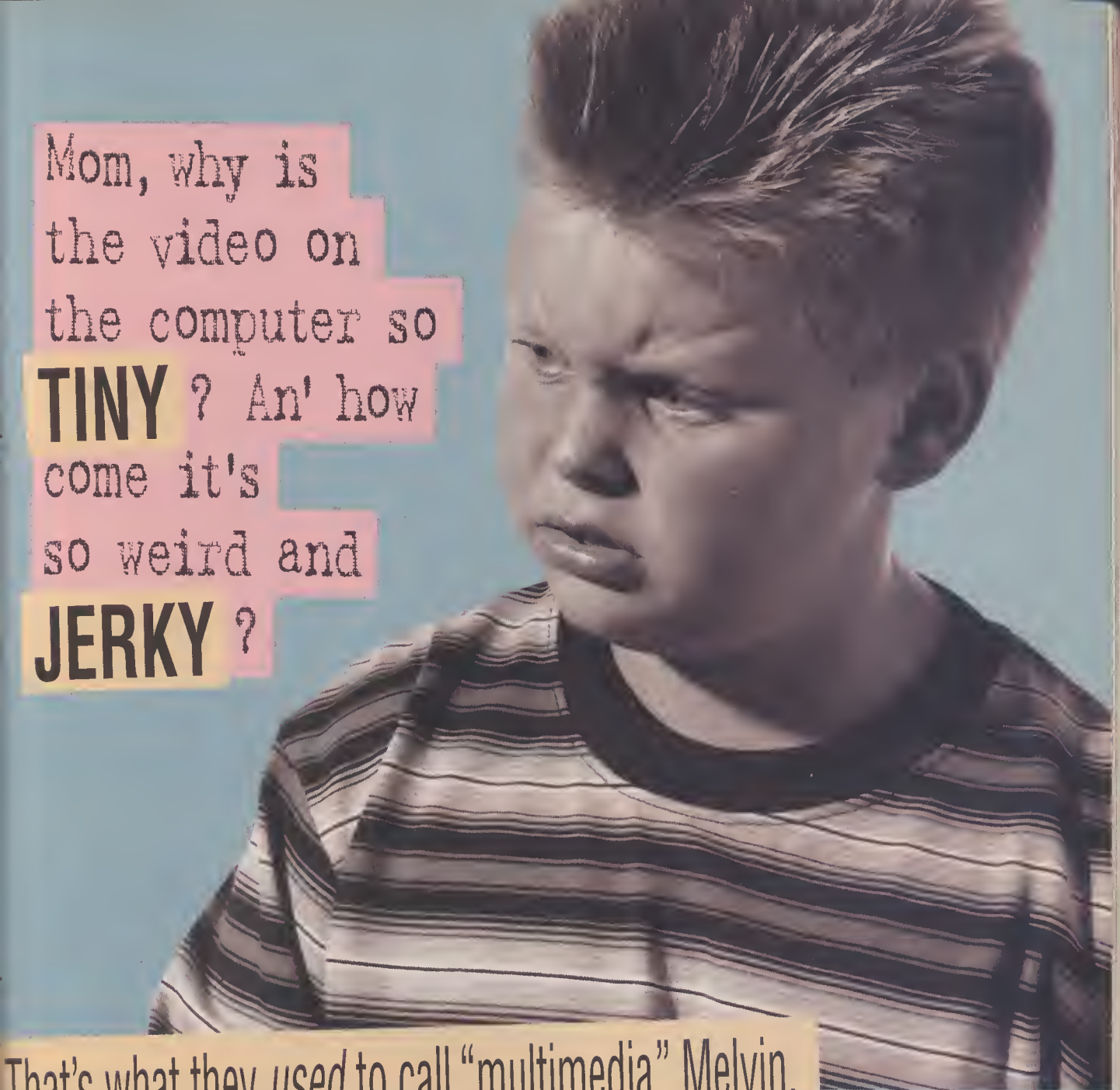
Software: America Online, Compaq Welcome Center, CompuServe, Control Center, Crayola Art Studio, Delrina WinFAX Lite, Learning Center, Mayo Clinic Family Healthbook-CD, Microsoft (MS) Encarta-CD, MS Entertainment Pack, MS Works for Windows-CD, Prodigy, Quicken for Windows-SE, TabWorks.

GOOD NEWS

- TabWorks organizer
- Telephone-answering system
- Attractive software selection

BAD NEWS

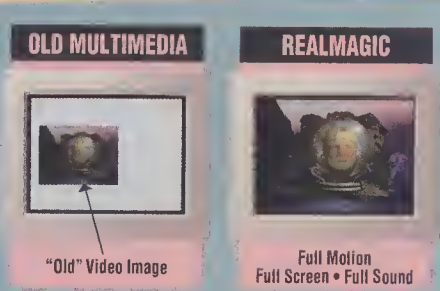
- Awkward mini-tower unit
- Lengthy software installation process
- Poor speakers



That's what they *used* to call "multimedia," Melvin.

RealMagic™ is multimedia now! Add the RealMagic card to your system for the incredible realism of smooth screen-filling, full-motion video and 16-bit audio. MPEG is the powerful new digital video and audio standard that puts the "real" in RealMagic.

Enter the exciting new world of interactive MPEG CD-ROMs including movies, games, educational titles, music videos and more. RealMagic is available as an MPEG playback card or a complete multimedia upgrade kit. Anything less is history. Get RealMagic and get real multimedia.



For the store near you or more information on RealMagic, call
1-800-845-8086

RealMagic is available at:
COMPUSA THE COMPUTER SUPERSTORE COMPUTER CITY

©1994 Sigma Designs, Inc. The Sigma Designs' logo is a registered trademark, and RealMagic and ReelMagic are trademarks of Sigma Designs, Inc. All other brand and product names are property of their respective owners.

SIGMA DESIGNS

REALmagic
As Big As It Gets

• Gateway 2000 Family PC

B

Scorecard

Highest grade: Monitor quality and performance: **B**

Lowest grade: Documentation and sound quality: **C+**

Specs

486DX2/66, 8 megabytes of RAM, 425-MB hard disk, 10-watt external speakers, enhanced VGA video card.

Software

5 programs included.

Gateway 2000 sells its computers direct to consumers by mail. The company changes the setup of its computers frequently, so what may be a "stock" computer in a magazine ad this month could be a special-order machine two months later.

Almost to prove that point, Gateway changed the configuration of the Family PC 486DX2/66 between the time they shipped their test models to us and the time this article went to press.

The model we tested is a slightly modified version of the business computers that are Gateway's stock in trade, with few enhancements to make the hardware installation easier for the home user. Our testers gave it a B, the lowest overall average grade of the computers they saw. They also said they'd expect to pay far less (an average of $1,670) for the machine than its actual list price ($1,999).

> ***"I liked the documentation. It was very specific."*** **—Jamie Shebes**

It's important to note, though, that the less experienced PC users in our group had the most trouble setting up and using this machine; the more experienced of our testers encountered few problems.

Even Gateway's 10-watt speakers aren't perfect.

"I liked this documentation," said experienced PC user Jamie Shebes as he leafed through the machine's owner's manual. "It was very specific. It takes you step-by-step through the system, how to set it up, how to load software. It seems to cover the most commonly asked questions about Windows."

"This is interesting stuff, but there should be an opening page of notes on how to get started," countered our resident Macintosh fan, David Randel. "I don't have the patience. I want to get it up and running, and up and running *now*. I will read all the tips after I have it set up."

Indeed, the biggest problem testers had with this Gateway machine was that little had been done to make it easier for home users to even get started. "It was very confusing, I didn't know what book to go to," complained novice user Ronald Miller. "There were books all over the place," he said as he shuffled through the stack of 10 manuals, which received a C+ average grade from our testers.

Like most of the computers we tested, the Family PC comes equipped with a software "welcome center" that introduces new users to different aspects of the computer's operation and gives a guided tour through some of the software titles that ship with the machine. Most novice users appreciated the on-screen help, but not everyone found the Family PC easy to set up in the first place. Marlene Loewy, a PC user of average experience who wants to buy a machine for her home, said she "probably wouldn't buy the Gateway." She didn't think it was designed for easy assembly and installation.

Indeed, of all the testers who looked at this machine, only Jamie, the most experienced PC user of the bunch, said he would buy it. "It's fast enough and powerful enough to do just about anything," he said.

Software: Microsoft (MS) Cinemania 1994-CD, MS Encarta 1994-CD, MS Money 3.0, MS Multimedia Golf-CD, MS Works 3.0 for Windows-CD.

GOOD NEWS

- Installation video
- 10-watt speakers

BAD NEWS

- Unfriendly hardware installation
- Poor sound quality—despite those 10-watt speakers

It took Michelangelo *4* years to perfect his work of art.

It took Susan Williams *4* seconds to perfect hers.

Panasonic's digital monitor with on-screen display.

With our PanaPerfect™ Control System, you can customize settings with the push of a button.

An on-screen display lets you precisely control everything from brightness to position to the color of your image.

All on a monitor that's one of the sharpest in the industry.

The C-1791E even comes with a three-year CRT warranty.*

Call **1-800-742-8086** for your nearest de ler.

o ee it's a wo k of art itself.

Panasonic
Office Automation OA

• IBM Aptiva 530

B+

Scorecard

Highest grade:
Sound quality: **B+**

Lowest grade:
Overall value: **B**

Specs

486DX2/66, 8 megabytes of RAM, 424-MB hard disk, 30-watt external speakers, SuperVGA video card.

Software

24 programs included.

The IBM Aptiva is a rugged, two-piece home computer that features some of the most advanced technology of any PC in our test.

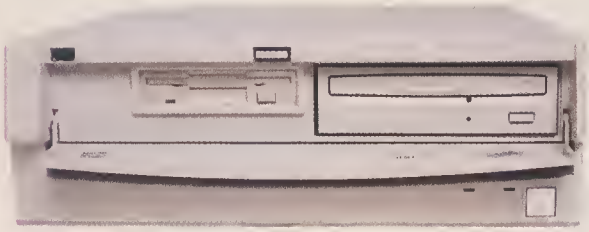
If the Aptiva loses power, it can restore your work in seconds; leave it turned off, and its telephone and fax answering system will turn the unit on again to pick up incoming calls; and the machine supports software that lets IBM technicians dial into the computer via modem and fix your other software problems. Besides those features, the Aptiva's speakers are the most powerful (30 watts) of any machine in the Lab test. As you would expect, the Aptiva was a crowd pleaser.

The Aptiva debuted this past September, replacing the PS/1 and PS/1 Value Point computers. It's designed for home use—for example, all Aptivas come with a software "welcome center." And if users require further assistance, "the support number was on the box everywhere," said Vicki Moy, who considers herself to have "average" computer expertise.

The Aptiva also comes with the Rapid Resume feature that was first introduced in IBM's PS/1 line last year. Rapid Resume saves your work from power fluctuations: You can shut off your computer's power, turn it on again and everything you had on your screen when the power went out is automatically restored. It helps you avoid going through a long rebooting process each time you start your computer, and if you happen to be in the middle of a document when the power dies, no problem. Rapid Resume will get it back. "This could really save the day," said Candyce Goldstein, clearly impressed.

The front of the Aptiva has a horizontal door panel that pops open to reveal the power switch, CD-ROM and floppy drives. David Randel complained that the doors looked too flimsy to stand up to the abuse children can dish out, but most of the others who examined the Aptiva complained that it was perhaps too solidly built. "It looks like it's built for a war," Vicki said. "If you drop a bomb on it, it won't break. It's big and clumsy looking."

"It looks like it's built for a war. If you drop a bomb on it, it won't break." **—Vicky Moy**



IBM hides Aptiva's disk drives for a sleeker look.

And while the Aptiva scored well overall, testers didn't lavish it with praise in post-test interviews—a result of IBM's name-brand recognition. Rather than expressing enthusiasm over the features they liked, everyone seemed to take them for granted. "I'm not surprised," said Candyce. "I equate IBM with being the best."

Software: America Online, Aptiva Multimedia Basics, Aptiva Photo Display, Aria Utilities, Checkfree, The Discoverers, Disney Interactive Encyclopedia, Disney Software Preview, FaxWorks, FaxWorks with Voice, IBM Online Housecall, IBM Online Registration, Journalist, MCS Music Rack, Monologue for Windows, Music Mentor, PFS: WindowWorks 2.5, Prodigy, Quicken for Windows Special Edition, Recording Session, Reuters Money Network, Undersea Adventure, Voice User, Windows Sound System.

GOOD NEWS

- 30-watt speakers
- Saves work if power cuts off
- Answers phone calls even when the machine is off

BAD NEWS

- Looks too "rugged"

The Personal Daily PlanIt™ Series

Warren Miller™ Entertainment

PlanIt Adrenaline™ Version 2

Art Wolfe™

PlanIt Earth™ Version 2

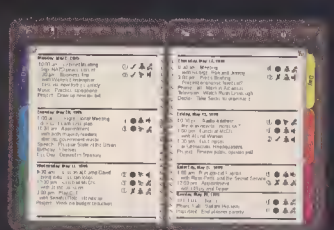
Swimwear™ Illustrated

PlanIt Paradise™ Version 2

NEW AND IMPROVED FOR 1995 Version 2

The Entertaining Way To Plan Your Day!

Plan your day, the entertaining way, with the world's first multimedia personal information manager. There are three PlanIts to choose from, each designed around a unique photographic theme. Every PlanIt features hundreds of stunning vivid "true color" images and over 1,000 audio and video entertainment clips. Each PlanIt includes an easy to use schedule planner, address book, and 'to do' list. Voice annotation tools keep your hands free from typing, and fun video alarm reminders help keep your day on course.



A bounty of multimedia amusements, all changing daily, offer lively entertainment. Listen to brain twisting trivia from "Isaac Asimov's Book of Facts" and side splitting humor with National Lampoon's Joke of the Day. View a new and exciting photograph each and every day along with video greetings from your very own personal assistant. Use the PlanIt's PhotoCD import feature to bring your own personal photography to your computer's desktop. Call us today to make a date with a Personal Daily PlanIt.

FUN ATTACK

Call 1-800-898-8842
or visit your local retailer

ANOMALY™

Windows™ CD-ROM

©Copyright Iguana Corporation 1993, 1994. All rights reserved. A licensed product of International Business Machines Corporation. Personal Daily PlanIt, PlanIt Adrenaline, PlanIt Earth, PlanIt Paradise and Anomaly are trademarks of Iguana Corporation. Funsation is a trademark of the IBM Corporation. Warren Miller Entertainment is a licensed trademark of Warren Miller Entertainment. Swimwear Illustrated is a licensed trademark of Ujena International, Inc. Art Wolfe is a trademark of Art Wolfe, Inc. National Lampoon is a licensed tredemark of J2 Communications. Isaac Asimov Book of Facts is licensed from Barricade Books, Inc. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. PhotoCD is a trademark of Eastman Kodak Company. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

• Micron P 90 PCI Family MPC

B

Scorecard

Highest grade: Package organization and monitor quality: **B+**

Lowest grade: Documentation: **C+**

Specs

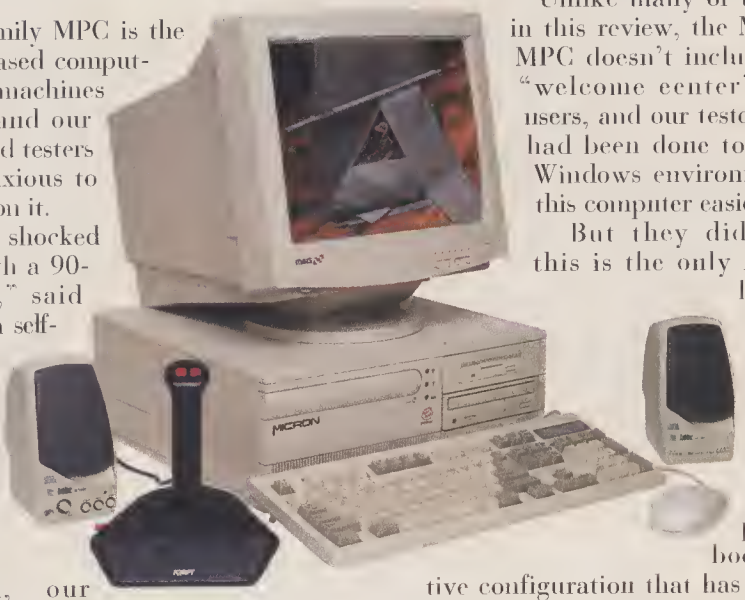
Pentium 90, 8 megabytes of RAM, 420-MB hard disk, 4-watt external speakers, SuperVGA video card.

Software

10 programs included.

The Micron Family MPC is the only Pentium-based computer of the eight machines we examined, and our more experienced testers were clearly anxious to get their hands on it.

"I was fairly shocked that it came with a 90-MHz Pentium," said Jamie Shebes, a self-professed PC power junkie. After examining three 486-based computers, he said, "it was a pleasant surprise."



That said, our testers gave this machine a lower performance grade (B) than some of the 486-based computers they looked at. In large part, that's because that grade reflects our tester's perceptions of overall performance—not just speed—while running a variety of programs.

"The package was well organized and the documentation was helpful." **—Vicki Moy**

The grade doesn't mean that a Pentium processor is slower than a 486 processor ("It certainly wasn't *slow*," acknowledged Candyce Goldstein), it just means that the performance difference between the Pentium computer and its 486-based counterparts wasn't significant enough for our testers to notice.

The Micron scored very well in package organization (B+), monitor quality (B+) and overall value (B) but, in general, experienced computer users liked it more than their less-experienced counterparts. "There were very few things I didn't like about this computer," said Jamie.

Both Candyce and Vicki Moy, two users with average experience, liked the Micron's packaging, which let them unpack each of the components in the order in which they needed to connect them. Vicki gave special praise to the rugged packing materials after she dropped the monitor and its box on the floor while trying to separate the two.

"The package was well organized," she said. "What documentation I read was informative and helpful, but I didn't need to use a lot of it."

Unlike many of the computers in this review, the Micron Family MPC doesn't include a software "welcome center" to aid new users, and our testers felt nothing had been done to the standard Windows environment to make this computer easier to use.

But they did notice that this is the only machine that has a "boot menu"; every time the computer starts up, it can be set up to run Windows and Windows applications, or boot an alternative configuration that has been designed specifically for running DOS games. And this is the only computer our testers saw that comes with a joystick for games.

All in all, testers felt they were getting a lot for their money. "I liked that it had so many programs," explained Vicki. "It seemed like it was fully loaded."

Nevertheless, the Micron didn't do as well as some of the other computers that had been better customized for ease of installation and use at home—two factors that clearly mattered to all but our most experienced testers. And while this is an expandable, speedy computer, the appeal of having a Pentium processor on board clearly wasn't enough to boost this machine's overall grade—a low B that placed it near the bottom of our list.

Software: America Online, CompuServe, Day of the Tentacle, Indiana Jones-CD, Microsoft (MS) Encarta 1994-CD, MS Office 4.2-CD, Prodigy, QAPlus system diagnostic software, Quicken CD Deluxe Edition, Rebel Assault-CD.

GOOD NEWS

- Pentium 90 processor
- Rich expansion possibilities

BAD NEWS

- No software 'welcome center'
- Poor manual
- Poor sound quality

BILL COSBY'S picture pages®
Numbers and Shapes

Come and learn with Bill

"PICTURE PAGES are the epitome of what I believe in...educating children with love and laughter. Together we'll help your kids develop important learning skills." -BILL COSBY

Since 1980, Bill Cosby has played his PICTURE PAGES with millions of children worldwide. Now, he makes the jump into the fun, new interactive learning age with PICTURE PAGES for CD-ROM, complete with brilliant high-resolution animations, fun sound effects and cheerful Picture Pages music.

Each IBM-PC or MAC CD Features:

- Over 50 Picture Pages that teach kids about numbers and shapes.
- 10 fun animated coloring book pages.
- 8 digitized video segments of Bill Cosby.
- Underwater Arcade Game with 7 levels.
- Animated Bill Cosby cartoons kick off many of the Picture Pages.
- Based on the original learning system recommended by the National Education Association.
- With the easy icon based interface of Mortimer Ichabod, children can play without knowing how to read.
- For ages 3 to 6.

Distributed by
VIACOM® NEWMEDIA™
Viacom Newmedia is a trademark of Viacom International Inc.

TAKE 2 INTERACTIVE SOFTWARE

Child's Play

• Packard Bell PB 486DX2/66 Multimedia

B+

Scorecard

Highest grade: Documentation and ease of installation: **A**

Lowest grade: Sound quality, performance and overall value: **B+**

Specs

486DX2/66, 8 megabytes of RAM, 540-MB hard disk, 4-watt attachable speakers, enhanced VGA video card.

Software

20 programs included.

As the information highway wends ever closer to reality, bringing with it promises of unprecedented interactivity and interconnectedness of technology, Packard Bell's PB 486DX2/66 Multimedia, which took top honors in our Consumer Lab, is ready for the road: It's got a built-in television hookup, allowing you to watch TV right on your PC.

A cable-ready computer wasn't exactly high on any of our testers' lists of necessary features before they entered our Lab. But that unique capability, a sleek look and color-coded cables and connectors that made the hardware installation a snap combined to make it a clear favorite.

"This is the kind of computer you would see on a television show, on a sitcom," said Jillian Arrowood. "It's very new-looking, fresh, like [it's] the latest."

Indeed, our testers were eager to compliment this machine, mostly because of its stylish look. "This is a computer that belongs in a living room," Jillian said. "It doesn't need to be in the bedroom or a makeshift office."

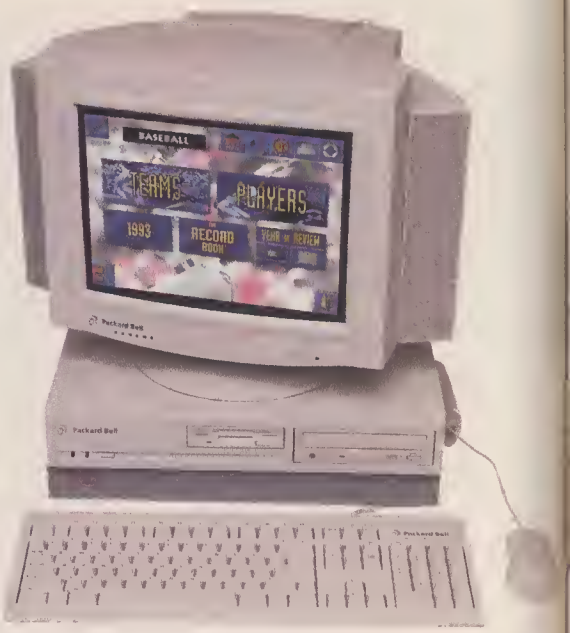
But that's not all they liked about it. The PB 486 scored a B+ for both performance and software selection.

"This is the kind of computer you would see on a TV show...[it] belongs in a living room." **—Jillian Arrowood**

"It's an impressive collection," said Jamie Shebes, one of our more experienced computer users. "So many titles and not a throwaway in the bunch."

The Packard Bell computer scored high marks for package organization (B+), ease of installation (A), documentation (A) and overall design (B+). But it won its highest praise for relatively simple features, such as the sleek, sculptured speakers that attach to the side of the monitor like giant ears, and the fact that all the connectors on the back of the PC are color-coded to match the wires for the monitor, keyboard and mouse. "The color coding really got me," Jamie said. "There was no mistaking what went where."

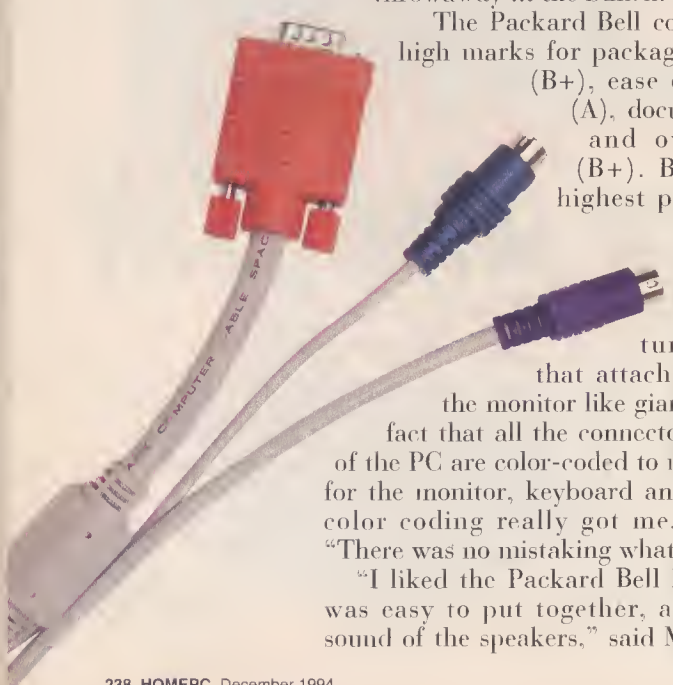
"I liked the Packard Bell best because it was easy to put together, and I liked the sound of the speakers," said Marlene Loewy, a PC user with average experience.



Our testers rated this model the highest of any computer they looked at, and probably for that reason, they assumed that it was the most expensive of the models included in our review—on average, they estimated it had a $2,183 price tag (near the bottom, however, of the $2,000 to $2,500 price range Packard Bell set for it).

Indeed, our testers liked just about everything they saw about the Packard Bell Multimedia PC, and they awarded it the highest average grade of any of the computers they saw, a very impressive B+. •

Software: Action! SE, Clipmedia, FaxWorks, Kid's Zoo, Microsoft (MS) Best of Entertainment Pack, MS Money, MS Productivity Pack, MS Works, Multimedia Pack for Windows, The New Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia, PB Navigator Megarace, Prodigy, Space Adventure, Speed, Sports Illustrated 1994 Multimedia Sports Almanac, Undersea Adventure, U.S. Atlas, World Atlas, 3-D Body Adventure, 3-D Dinosaur Adventure.



GOOD NEWS

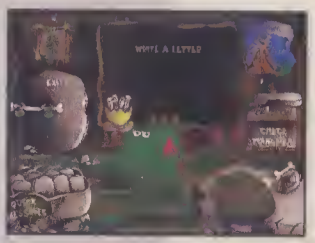
- Built-in TV connection
- Color-coded hardware hookups
- Great manual

BAD NEWS

- Relatively expensive

NOW YOUR KIDS CAN SEND AND RECEIVE MAIL WITHOUT REACHING THROUGH SPIDER WEBS LIKE YOU DID.

Now there's e-mail that kids can use—and parents love. KidMail Connection™ is the fun way for you and your kids to be connected with greetings and letters to family and friends. KidMail uses the on-line service you have (CompuServe®, Prodigy®, or MCI Mail®) to talk to anyone on any on-line service. It's so much fun, you'll find yourself using it. Get KidMail Connection today at your local retailer for less than a family night out!



Kids can choose from three fun message centers.

MICROSOFT® WINDOWS™ COMPATIBLE

KIDMAIL CONNECTS FAMILIES

ConnectSoft™

For Information or to Order Direct
Call (800) 889-3499
Includes special offers from CompuServe, MCI Mail and Prodigy.

KidMail is available at Egghead Software, Electronics Boutique, Micro Center and other software retailers.
CompuServe, MCI Mail, and Prodigy are registered trademarks of their respective holders.

...WHILE VISIONS OF DIN RED CORPUSCLES

They're every kid's wish. And every parent's dream come true.

Saftware Marketing Carparatian's pragrams cambine amazing graphics and sensatianal saunds – alang with interesting informatian – all ta make a tharaughly entertaining experience! Like **BODYWORKS® 3.0** – one af the tap 10 best-selling educatianal pragrams in America that takes yau an an adventure inside the fascinating warld af human anatamy. Our new **BODYWORKS® VOYAGER™** sends yau an a high-tech mission ta destray diseases inside a patient's bady – at stake is the very survival af the human race. Or sink yaur teeth inta **Smithsonian Institution's® DINOSAUR MUSEUM™**. Yau'll find the hungry Tyrannasaurus and the armed Stegasaurus anxiausly awaiting yaur visit.

CHECK YOUR LOCAL SOFTWARE STORE FOR DISCOUNTED HOLIDAY PRICES OR CALL 1-800-230-0320

OSAURS, UFO's AND DANCED IN THEIR HEADS.

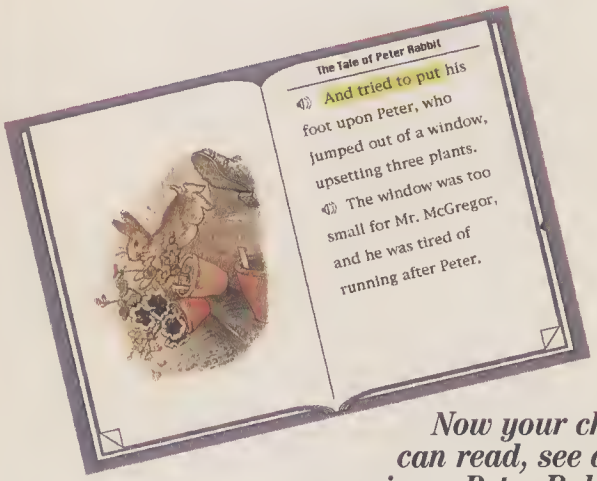
Foscinoted by the Wor Between the Stotes? Pick up **AMERICA'S CIVIL WAR – A NATION DIVIDED.** Through video clips, sounds, vintoge photos, mops ond more you'll morch bock through time to the heot of bottle. Other Softwore Marketing fovorites include ostonishing occounts of extroterrestrials, intriguing informotion obout the U.S., ond o guide to thousands of prescription ond non-prescription drugs. This holidoy seoson, look for the Softwore Morketing logo on the programs you buy – ond join us in ***our*** vision of providing educotionol ond entertoining softwore for kids of oll oges.

SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICES RANGE FROM $49.95 TO $69.95

SOFTWARE MARKETING CORPORATION

We Bring Learning to Life.

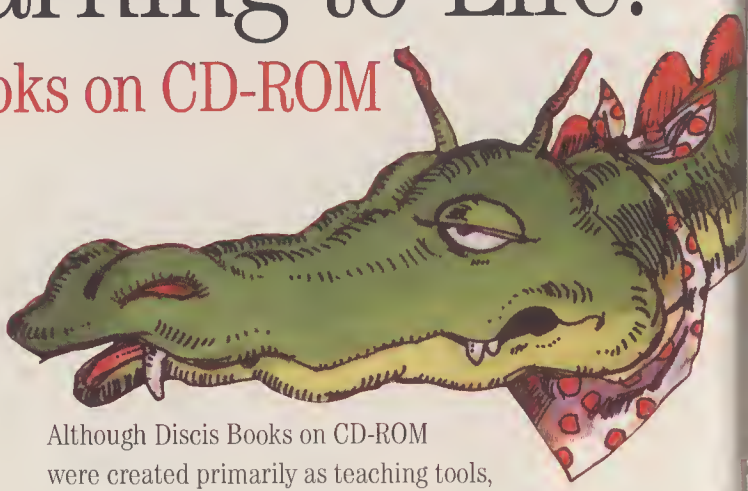
Children's Books on CD-ROM



Now your child can read, see and experience Peter Rabbit.

Award-winning Discis Books provide a complete interactive multimedia learning experience. And every title features the complete text and graphics of the original hardcover edition, richly enhanced by narrative, music, sound effects, and a unique set of reading and learning tools.

Including such favorites as The Tale of Benjamin Bunny, Cinderella, Aesop's Fables, and more.



Although Discis Books on CD-ROM were created primarily as teaching tools, children, parents *and* teachers love them.

Because they're fun, easy to use, entertaining as well as educational. An ideal learning tool for both first and second language learning, reluctant readers, and children struggling with their reading skills.

When it comes to home learning, Discis is at the top of the class.

Choose from a wide variety of pre-school, kindergarten, classic and contemporary titles from well-known authors such as Beatrix Potter and Robert Munsch — for children from 3 to 12 years old. Available on MPC and Macintosh, everywhere quality software is sold.

For a free catalog, or information on where to buy Discis Books on CD-ROM, call toll-free today.

Discis

Helping Children to Read and Learn

Over 1 Million Sold!

preschool-*grade 3*

GIVING KIDS A GOOD HEAD START

Havin' a (bouncing) ball with sing-along software

Next time your kids want to gather the family around the keyboard for a sing-along, don't rush for the piano or electric organ. A candelabra may look a little ridiculous on your home computer, but microphones, sound cards and stereo speakers are a natural fit. Add some equally harmonious software, and your PC turns into a family jukebox just waiting for some vocals. And you know nothing's more fun to a little kid than a karaoke machine.

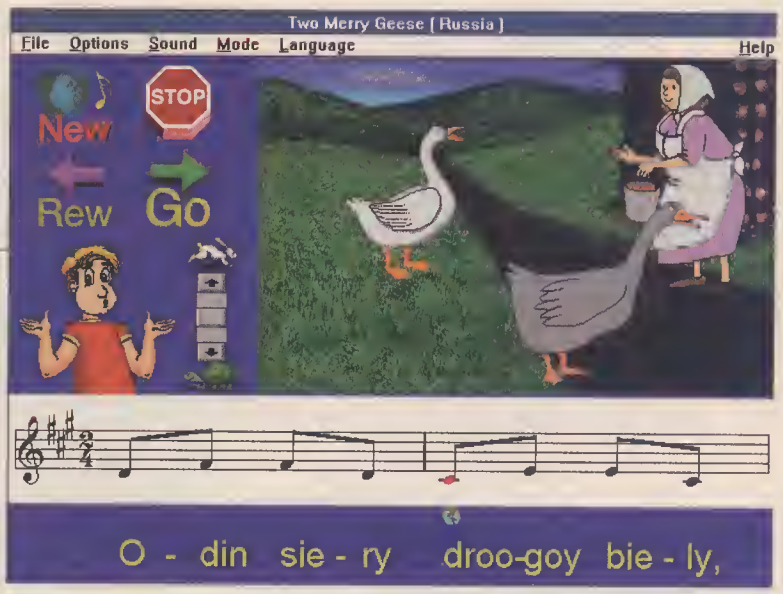
At our house, the dog covers her ears and the cat runs for the closet whenever our 3-year-old daughter, Sarah, grabs the computer's microphone and starts singing along with the songs featured in her favorite software. But we just can't keep Sarah from her newfound hobby. And, unlike the pets, we really wouldn't want to.

Dr. T's Around the World thesis: Music is a universal language.

Singing gives youngsters an important opportunity to express themselves. Like all children, Sarah is trying to find her voice, both in what she says and how she says it. She loves to hear her own amplified vocals coming through the computer's speakers. My wife and I love her performances (well, most of the time). And what's important to us is that we encourage her love of music. Recent research suggests that exposure to music helps prepare preschoolers for more formal, general learning down the road. Music teaches kids about relationships—they mimic sounds, learn to recognize and repeat lyrics, distinguish tones and anticipate and manipulate patterns of words and music.

Audio tapes have traditionally introduced kids to music, but searching for the right song is a clunky process, and tiny fingers often have trouble manipulating the buttons, even on tape recorders designed specifically for kids. Musical instruments, of course, require a certain degree of mastery. But your child and a PC loaded with today's sing-along software can make beautiful music together. The programs encourage kids to recognize and imitate pitch, notes, rests, melody and harmony, and it's a breeze for young kids to select and play their favorite songs and sing and dance to their hearts' content.

Children can stop or start any song they like—and launch animations—by clicking on animal characters in Tuncland, which features the voice of actor-comedian Howie Mandel. Click on the broom in the country kitchen, for instance, and three blind mice scurry across the screen, with the farmer's wife in hot pursuit, to a chorus of (you guessed it) "Three Blind Mice."



Little Howie, a young bear, hides behind objects in the program. Children chase him across eight animated screens and, as they click on objects to try to find him, hear up to 40 jazzy arrangements of classic children's songs, including "Bingo" and "Mary Had a Little Lamb." Kids can skip around the screens or click repeatedly on one object to play their favorite song again and again. One little girl we know sent "Jack and Jill" up the hill 14 times in one sitting.

by warren buckleitner

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia

Tuneland doesn't provide lyrics on screen, but other programs do. This allows children to begin to associate written words with their sounds as they sing along. It's a wonderful way to encourage young readers.

Dr. T's Sing-A-Long: Kids' Classics, for ages 3 to 10, displays lyrics on screen alongside an animated tape recorder (kids can click on the control buttons to play, rewind or skip a song). The 26-song playlist on the main menu includes classics such as "Itsy Bitsy Spider" and "Yankee Doodle"; kids click once to hear the name of the song and twice to hear the music. A cartoon related to the songs appears in a window as the song plays. Children can read the lyrics and watch the musical notation scroll by, including the chords complete with finger positions so a guitar-strumming Mom, Dad or older sibling can easily add live instrumentation.

Another popular sing-along program is Kap 'n Karaoke, for ages 4 and up. It includes 20 children's classics, plus on-screen lyrics. Children can adjust the key at any time and match it to the pitch of their own voices—although kids, being kids, might have more fun manipulating the pitch to hear the voice in a falsetto or deep baritone. And, since other controls allow them to adjust the speed of the songs, they can experiment to make the tunes sound as weird as possible. The program has no animation, though, which makes it somewhat more appropriate for school-age kids than preschoolers.

Tuning pitchfork: Kap 'n Karaoke lets kids adjust pitch.

Starting a world tour

Of course, children can't expand their musical repertoire beyond nursery-school favorites unless they're exposed to new songs—and there are programs that help them do that, too. A program in the Dr. T series called Around The World, an international version of Dr. T's Kids' Classics, also for ages 3 to 10, lets kids click on a world map to reveal a country's flag and listen to its most popular children's song, either in English or the native language. The software includes 21 folk songs from as many countries, including Ghana, Russia, Venezuela, Japan and the United States. The program was designed by Al Hospers, formerly of the rock group Blood Sweat & Tears (who had several hits, including "Spinning Wheel"). Hospers was so fond of the music he heard when the group was on world tours, he created the software to share his interest with children.

By the time kids enter elementary school, they may be ready to accompany their own singing by taking up a musical instrument. (Parents, of course, should consider their child's interest in music carefully before beginning any instrumental instruction.)

If your child is ready to begin formal music lessons, Music Ace, for ages 7 and up, makes an ideal supplement. Maestro Max, a jolly conductor, leads kids through a series of well-crafted tutorials that introduce the notes on a treble clef and other musical concepts. Kids will also enjoy activities such as the Music Doodle Pad, which lets them drag notes onto the lines of a staff to create compositions that will be performed by an on-screen piano—it sure beats practicing scales.

Music is a relatively new category of software that holds tremendous potential for making learning fun, and there's no better time than the holidays to belt out some tunes around the PC—just be sure to warn the dog and put out the cat first. •

Warren Buckleitner is editor of Children's Software Revue *in Ypsilanti, Mich., and a former elementary school teacher.*

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the children's music software mentioned in this article.

Dr. T's Sing-A-Long: Around The World
Dr. T's Sing-A-Long: Kids' Classics
Dr T's Music Software, (800) 989-6434, (617) 455-1454
$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

Kap 'n Karaoke
WordPerfect, (800) 451-5151, (801) 225-5000
$39 (Windows, Macintosh, Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

Music Ace
Harmonic Vision, (800) 644-4994, (708) 467-2395
$59.95 (DOS)

Tuneland
7th Level, (800) 884-8863, (818) 547-1955
$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

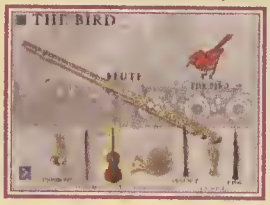
THIS INTERACTIVE MUSIC ADVENTURE WILL HAVE YOUR CHILD WHISTLING A NEW 'TOON!

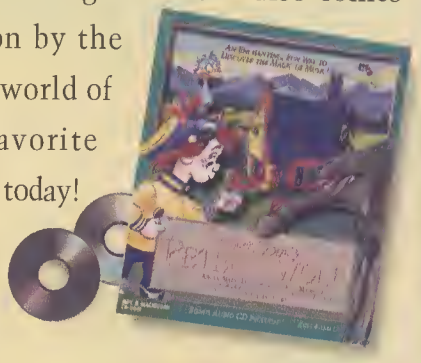
CHUCK JONES' PETER AND THE WOLF

Kid-friendly and loaded with fun, the timeless tale of ***Peter and The Wolf*** is now available in a sensational new interactive version by animation legend Chuck Jones and conductor/director George Daugherty. Starring the voices of Kirstie Alley, Lloyd Bridges and Ross Malinger, this colorful interpretation of the beloved classic is fine-'tooned fun for kids of all ages. Children will delight in the gloriously animated tale...frolic with Peter and his friends in an exciting arcade-style game...and discover the wonders of music through hours of interactive play. This enchanting CD-ROM also comes with **a bonus audio CD** especially recorded for this production by the 65-member Time Warner Symphony Orchestra. A magical world of music and discovery is waiting. Visit your favorite software retailer, or call toll free (800-482-3766) today!

Eddie Baskin/Onyx

Marc Carter





TIME WARNER INTERACTIVE

Other ***Peter and The Wolf*** products available from Warner Books and TW Kids.

Interactive Chuck Jones' Peter and The Wolf ©1994 IF/X Interactive, Inc./ Time Warner Interactive.
The Chuck Jones logo is a trademark and character designs are a trademark and ©1994 Chuck Jones Enterprises.
Published by Time Warner Interactive, 2210 West Olive Avenue, Burbank, CA 91506. Internet: TWIinfo@aol.com. AOL:Keyword:TWI.

CD-ROM

IF/X interactive

The Book Of

SHADOWBOXES

A Story of the ABC's

Interactive 3-D Animated Playmate

***Shadowboxes* provides hours of fun while your child learns to read.**

Ages 3-8

Includes a coloring book and a box of CRAYOLA® crayons.

Mac CD-ROM
Windows CD-ROM
Now Available!

For More Information Call
1-800-898-8842

© 1994 International Business Machines Corporation. All rights reserved. Funsation is a trademark of International Business Machines Corporation.
Developed from the print edition originally issued by Peachtree Publishers, Atlanta, GA.
© Text and illustration by Laura L. Seeley. ® CRAYOLA is a registered trademark of Binney & Smith Inc., used with permission.

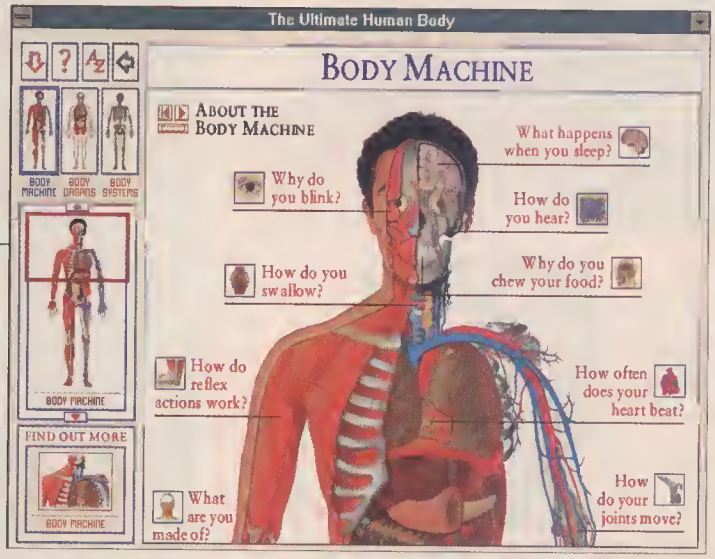
Knee bone's connected to which bone? Just ask a PC

On a recent trip to the supermarket, my 8-year-old nephew, Ian, pelted me with questions as he helped me select my low-fat sour cream, ground turkey and no-fat, no-taste ice cream. Why couldn't we have French fries and pizza for dinner? Why was I buying him apples instead of chocolate-chip cookies?

I sympathized with Ian's lament—I'd rather have bacon and eggs for breakfast than oatmeal, too. Nevertheless, I began explaining the concept of heartburn and heart attacks, and the difference between good cholesterol and bad. But if adults are often confused by the conflicting scientific evidence surrounding food and our health, imagine how hard it is for kids to grasp that we really are what we eat.

A busy body? Anatomy programs have answers for even the most inquisitive students.

According to the American Association for the Advancement of Science, children need to develop a perspective on science before they can begin to understand it. If so, there are a number of software packages that would have come in handy at the market as I tried to make my points about nutrition to Ian. These programs introduce kids to the way in which the human body works, which in turn helps them grasp the relationship between good food and good health.



3D Body Adventure, for ages 8 to 12, presents three-dimensional images of the human torso that take kids on a roller-coaster ride down the spine, through the heart and around the brain. The program includes 3-D glasses for viewing full-screen movies (they're surprisingly effective), and games. One section, called Body Recall, shows kids pictures of different human organs and asks them to identify what the parts are; another, called Emergency, tests their knowledge as they race against time to save a patient—zapping cholesterol to unclog his arteries, for example.

A.D.A.M. (Animated Dissection of Anatomy for Medicine) Software, a respected publisher of academic anatomical references, recently released A.D.A.M. The Inside Story, for ages 10 and up. The straightforward presentation and good humor in this edition makes it ideal for middle schoolers and their families. In it, we find Adam (who changes into Eve with a mouse click—on a rib, or anywhere else), dressed in appropriately placed fig leaves. If they choose, parents can "lock" parts of the program so that younger kids can't peek under the leaves or access discussions of the male and female reproductive systems.

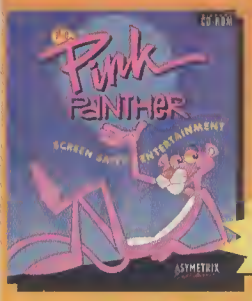
Adam (or Eve) narrates a tour of the human body, using a "family scrapbook" filled with sound, animation and video of our physical systems and organs. Kids can rotate Adam and Eve for different views and peel back skin, muscles and systems to examine their skeletons. Information screens confide such secrets as why Mom and Dad snore (a temporarily blocked air passage, often caused by poor muscle tone, a cold or allergies), while puzzles test everyone's knowledge of human anatomy. (Alas, when Ian and I assembled the puzzle, we connected poor Adam's stomach to his appendix.)

The opening view in a third program, The Ultimate Human Body, changes with every

by sharon mccoy bell

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia

NEW! Screen Saver Entertainment for Your Computer

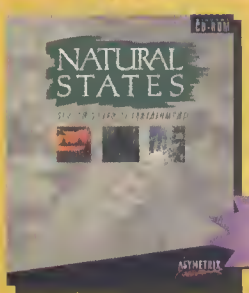


The classiest cat in cartoons adds his trademark pink personality to your computer CD-ROM includes video from the films starring Peter Sellers!

Windows 3.5" $24.95*
Windows CD-ROM $39.95*

Enjoy the best lines and gags, and all your favorite characters from this classic cartoon.

Windows 3.5" $24.95*
Windows CD-ROM $39.95*



Relax to the soothing sights and sounds of nature including the entire 45 minute best-selling video.

Windows CD-ROM $39.95*

Thrill to the sights and sounds of this spectacular movie. Now available for both Windows and Macintosh.

CD-ROM version now includes *video!*

These Asymetrix Entertainment products bring you fully animated screen savers shows, stunning wallpaper scenes, system sounds, and guest appearances while you work. Multimedia tours and video available on most CD-ROM versions.

To order, visit your local retailer or call:

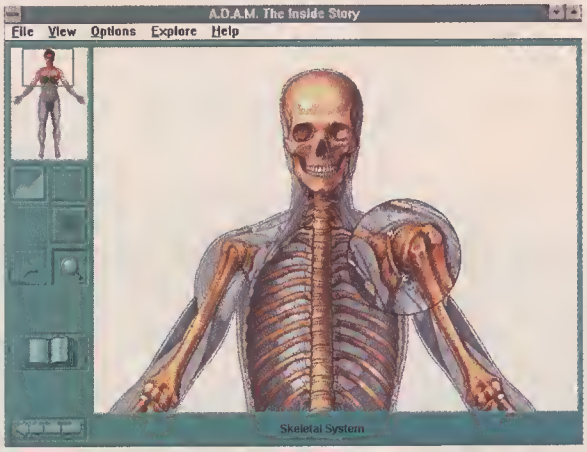
1-800-370-8994

24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Operator code: AEHP12

ASYMETRIX Entertainment™

Plus tax, shipping, and handling charges. Asymetrix, Asymetrix Entertainment, and the Asymetrix Entertainment logo are trademarks of Asymetrix Corporation. Jurassic Park ™ & © 1994 Universal City Studios, Inc. & Amblin Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Licensed by MCA/Universal Merchandising, Inc. The Pink Panther and Characters are trademarks and © 1994 United Artists Pictures Inc. and are licensed by MGM/UA L&A. ™ Used By Permission. All Rights Reserved. The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle and Friends ™ & © Weed Productions, Inc. Licensed by MCA/Universal Merchandising, Inc. All Rights Reserved. Natural States is licensed by Miramar®. Copyright MCMLXXXV Maranon Images Inc. All Rights Reserved. All other brand and company names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

COMPAQ Qualified Solution



A.D.A.M. The Inside Story is no bare-bones effort.

heartbeat. Kids can explore The Body Machine to see how our bodies work, Body Organs to learn more about our individual parts or Body Systems to find out about processes such as digestion, circulation, respiration and reproduction. They can call up screens that answer questions such as "What are you made of?" (24 elements, mostly hydrogen and oxygen in the form of water). And, yes, they can learn about food groups and nutrition, too.

Parents can supplement these programs with other entertainment that has a scientific theme. Science-fiction movies sometimes stretch credibility but they also inspire kids' imaginations. *Inner-Space*, for example, stars Martin Short and Dennis Quaid and follows a bizarre scientific experiment in which Quaid is shrunk to microscopic size in order to carry out a mission inside Short's body.

Or, take kids to a museum where they can touch, take apart, manipulate and reassemble a three-dimensional model of the body. Even a tour of the fossil remains at a natural history museum can heighten kids' awareness of anatomy as they compare a mastodon's skull or a brontosaurus's foreleg with the illustrations of human skulls and limbs they've seen on their home computers.

Just don't expect kids' new awareness to filter into their diets anytime soon. It takes maturity to accept that you just can't eat a Big Mac every night. Even if Ian understands the difference between heartburn and heart attacks, he still prefers ice cream to broccoli. But at least the PC adds a little food for thought to his daily diet, too. •

Sharon McCoy Bell is director of the Information Technology Center of the New Orleans Public Schools and a former middle-school teacher. In 1993, she won the Computerworld Smithsonian Informational Technology Leadership Award for Education.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the anatomy software mentioned in this article.

3D Body Adventure
Knowledge Adventure, (800) 542-4240, (818) 542-4200
$49.95 (DOS, DOS CD-ROM)

A.D.A.M. The Inside Story
A.D.A.M. Software, (800) 755-2326, (404) 980-0888
$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

The Ultimate Human Body
Dorling Kindersley, (800) 356-6575, (212) 213-4800
$79.95 (Windows CD-ROM; Macintosh CD-ROM scheduled to be released in early 1995)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

Colorforms®

COMPUTER FUN SET™

Special offer $33.95

Mrs. Burke's class
Jamie Austin, Age 6

Jamie's artwork has always been beautiful, but now the pictures are easier to create, and they even make sounds!

Your Child's Imagination Comes To Life With Colorforms® Computer Fun Set™

Colorforms® Play Shapes Jamie Austin, Age 6

Colorforms® Computer Fun Set™ (ages 3-10) and My First Colorforms® (ages 3-6) provide palettes of pre-drawn objects such as animals, trees, fish, colorful outfits and toys. By thinking of these objects as sheets of stick-ons™ that never run out, your child will enjoy hours of fun! Their eyes will light up as the duck quacks, the snowman talks, and the cow moos!

Choose from up to 12 pre-drawn backgrounds and five different special effects options with sound. Open your child's imagination to fun, adventure and learning with *Colorforms Computer Fun Set*. Now available for Windows or Macintosh at this special price. Call Gryphon Software at 1 800 795-0981. Or visit your local software store.

Gryphon Software
Corporation
7220 Trade Street, Suite 120
San Diego,California 92121
(619) 536-8815
(619) 536-8932 Fax

GRYPHON™

1994 © Colorforms. All rights reserved. TM or ® indicates a trademark of Colorforms and is used by permission. Licensed in conjunction with Kiscom, Inc., Names International, Inc. and International Computer Group, inc. Gryphon logo is a trademark of Gryphon Software Corporation. All rights reserved.

Get Multimedia Coaching From Great Sports Champions

"Starting with the ball at about waist height, bring your arm overhead with a powerful windmill motion."

CD-ROM
PC Multimedia PC
3DO

Here's the real thing. Interactive, multimedia coaching from great champions ready to improve your game. Packed with personalized advice, demonstrations, reviews and more that help you learn at your own pace. All using live-action video, stunning graphics and sound on your Multimedia PC, Macintosh or 3DO system.

Learn from the best. Get personalized coaching from U.S. World Cup Soccer Team stars **Tony Meola** and **John Harkes**, and women's soccer legend **Mia Hamm**. Golf's all-time money winner **Tom Kite**. Former U.S. Open tennis champion **Tracy Austin**, plus **Fred Stolle** and **Cliff Drysdale**. Baseball's 13-time All-Star **Ozzie Smith**, or national collegiate champion, **Coach Ron Fraser**. Beach Volleyball's **Karch Kiraly** and **Karolyn Kirby**. Football **Coach Bill Lewis**, 1991 UPI Coach Of The Year. And plenty more.

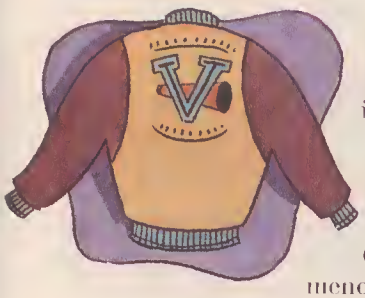
ESPN

Whatever your sport, ESPN's your coach. Delivering instruction that *Computer Game Review* says "will have you itching to...show the competition how it's done." **Call 1-800-253-4263 now** for a free brochure and complete "how to buy" information. And start playing to win.

IntelliPlay®
Total Sports Instruction

Runs On
MACINTOSH® COMPUTERS

Published by Intellimedia Sports, Inc. Two Piedmont Center, Suite 300, Atlanta, Georgia 30305. Phone (404) 261-8330. Fax (404) 261-2282. IntelliPlay is a registered trademark of Intellimedia Sports, Inc. ESPN is a registered trademark of ESPN, Inc. The Multimedia PC logo is a certification mark of the Multimedia PC Marketing Council, Inc. 3DO and the 3DO logo are trademarks of The 3DO Company. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.



Teen spirituality: exploring religion on CD-ROM

Old Testament, new media: Original rhymes, animation, illustrations and riddles present the Bible to the multimedia generation.

by david hoffman

The winter holiday season is a time when people of all faiths and beliefs reflect on their heritages and traditions as much as on gifts and social events. While young children often eagerly participate in the celebrations and relish the stories of the first Christmas or the lighting of the menorah, teens can be a little jaded. Young adults' feelings about religion tend to be more personal, less demonstrative and, perhaps, more skeptical.

Still, appearances aside, it's a good bet that their interest in spiritual matters has not really waned. If anything, it has probably intensified. Teenagers are more intent on figuring out who they are, and how they fit into life's grand scheme, than almost any other age group. And when teens make the connection between their own identities and their families' religious traditions, the spirit of the season can spur a new level of understanding and clarity of thinking.

If parents are interested in helping teens approach the subject, there are several ways the computer can help. Fewer things are more inviting these days than multimedia—and several programs focus on bringing Judeo-Christian traditions to the computer screen in entertaining video clips, music, maps and images, and even games. (Unfortunately, introductory software exploring other religious traditions is harder to find.)

The story of Jesus—Books Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—is retold in The Gospels. Along with the text of the books themselves are more than 60 minutes of video clips from the 1940s movie *The Living Bible*, audio narration, and an array of illustrations, maps and photos of the lands of the Bible.

Teens can easily explore a particular section of the text, click the mouse to cut to a related video, sound clip or image, then cut right back to where they began. And although only the Gospels get multimedia treatment, the entire Old and New Testaments are available in text form, so kids can look up relevant passages using keywords, phrases and dates. If they're interested in more serious research—say, in finding citations for a discussion group or religious class—the on-screen Testaments will come in handy.

The First Electronic Jewish Bookshelf takes a broader look at Judaism than The Gospels does at Christianity, embracing cultural traditions as well as religious ones. It features thoughtful discussions of history and folklore, more than an hour of traditional Jewish music, illustrations, biographies of Jewish sports greats and Borscht Belt comedians, and examples of Jewish contributions to classical and popular culture. The program even contains recipes for traditional kosher dishes such as *cholent*, a meat-and-potato stew prepared before sundown on Friday and cooked through Saturday so families can enjoy a hot meal on the Sabbath.

The program features material from 12 books on Judaism, each presented with its own on-screen menu. The music occupies its own section on the disc and includes short recordings from contemporary performers of Jewish songs, as well as traditional tunes.

Illustration by Steven Guarnaccia

Learning for Kids that's Out of this World!

ALLIE'S PLAYHOUSE

MPC/MAC

Allie's Playhouse is a fun and exciting learning environment for children ages 3-8. Allie is your guide through 16 different educational activities that encourage your child to explore, interact and create—learning such important subjects as math, spelling, music, geography, the solar system and more! Allie's Playhouse is easy to learn, fun to use and offers a treasure chest full of interactive learning.

ALLIE'S ACTIVITY KIT™

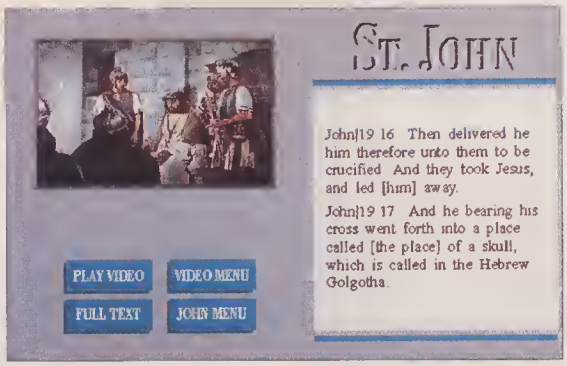
MPC

Allie's Activity Kit is the latest in fun interactive adventure! In Allie's Activity Kit, our popular little alien friend once again plays "host" to kids everywhere. Your child will love to learn—about animals in their natural habitat, geography, counting, the alphabet, solving puzzles, growing a garden, creating landscapes with shapes, and much, much more!

Call 1 800 557-2633 or visit your local retailer

CD ROM Edutainment

OPCODE INTERACTIVE



The Gospels' clips reenact New Testament scenes.

With its variety of information on both tradition and mass culture, this program makes it easy and fun for kids to explore their heritage and religious roots.

Riddles and rhymes

Family Bible Rhymes brings animation and music to the stories of the Old Testament using 70 original narrated rhymes, plus colorful illustrations and cartoons to retell such stories as the Creation, Noah's Ark and the parting of the Red Sea. All the tales are accompanied by riddles, and the program offers a great opportunity for an older brother or sister to sit with a younger sibling, watch and listen to the rhymes and work out the riddles together. (Teachers sometimes team older students with younger ones in a learning relationship that benefits both age groups.)

Another puzzle program with a religious theme is Bible Crosswords, a floppy disk that features some 200 brainteasers accompanied by music. Kids can use it with a companion program, Bible Software, to find citations in scripture automatically when they click on related clues in the crossword.

Using these programs with your teens can help promote togetherness, understanding and inclusion—feelings that young adults inwardly crave in spite of any outward projection of indifference. On a December evening when you're at home with the kids, no parties are scheduled and you decide not to watch *It's a Wonderful Life* for the hundredth time, gather around your computer and use today's technology to uncover—and discover—your family's heritage. •

David Hoffman is a Philadelphia-based education writer. He has held the positions of senior editor at Learning94 *and associate editor at* Technology & Learning.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the religion software mentioned in this article.

Bible Crosswords
Bible Software
Logos Research Systems, (800) 875-6467, (206) 679-6575
$29.95 (Bible Crosswords; DOS)
$79 (Bible Software; DOS)

Family Bible Rhymes
Bible Land Software, (800) 925-6853, (914) 356-1485
$59 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM)

The First Electronic Jewish Bookshelf
Scanrom Publications, (800) 269-2237, (516) 295-2237
$99.95 (DOS CD-ROM)

The Gospels, A Multimedia Guide to the Bible
Cinerom, (800) 246-3766, (714) 660-7111
$49.95 (DOS CD-ROM, Windows CD-ROM)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

The Best Education Your Child Can Get Outside of a Classroom

Multimedia Makes Learning Fun and Easy!

Jostens Home Learning™ will help your children excel, regardless of their grade and skill levels. Our CD-ROM programs bring the benefits of proven instructional technology into your home. Students who have fallen behind can get up to speed with ease; and advanced students will progress even faster! The sights and sounds of new CD-ROM technology make learning motivating and fun!

Children Acquire Higher Learning Skills with Our CD-ROM Products

Jostens Home Learning uses state-of-the-art, advanced multimedia technologies, including full-color graphics, dynamic animation, and quality sound, to get children excited about learning. Serious education has never been more fun and rewarding. With Jostens Home Learning, your chidren will learn to love the learning process.

Home Jostens Learning™

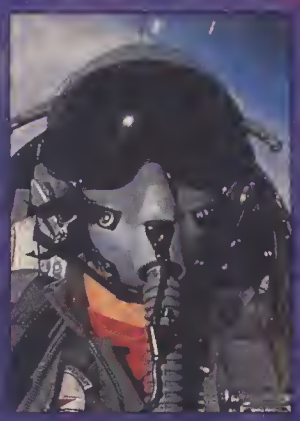
Call for a free catalog:1-800-801-0040

Your Source for Education on CD-ROM™

Win The Real

THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
CD-ROM SWEEPSTAKES

Enter The Discovery Channel CD-ROM Explore Your World
You Can Win Your Choice of These Grand Adventures...



SKY WARRIORS EXPERIENCE IN ATLANTA

Wings puts you in the pilot's seat. And Sky Warriors in Atlanta will put you in the seat of a T-34 for an air-to-air dogfight.

WHALE WATCHING IN SAN DIEGO

In The Company of Whales is an acclaimed journey. Your whale-watching adventure will be one of the most acclaimed journeys of your lifetime.

D DAY COMMEMORATIVE WEEK

Normandy: The Great Crusade puts you on the beaches at D Day. This commemorative journey can put you there—or in London or Paris—for real.

© 1994 DCI

COMPLETE OFFICIAL RULES 1. ELIGIBILITY: NO PURCHASE NECESSARY TO ENTER OR CLAIM PRIZE. Open to legal U.S. residents 18 years of age and older. Employees of Discovery Communications, Inc., DCI's subsidiaries, affiliates, participating retailers and distributors and members of their families living in the same household are not eligible. Void where prohibited. 2. HOW TO ENTER: To be automatically entered in the sweepstakes, call 1-800-338-7766 from 11/15/94 through 1/15/95. You may also enter by completing an official entry form or by printing your name and complete address on a 3"x5" piece of paper. Be sure to indicate The Discovery Channel trip you would like to take—Whale Watching, Shark Dive, Animal Safari, Sky Warriors, Aerospace Adventure or D-Day Commemorative Week—and the name and location of your participating retailer. Mail your entry to: The Discovery Channel CD ROM Sweepstakes, PMI Station, P.O. Box 3533, Southbury, CT 06488-3533. Entries must be mailed and postmarked by 1/31/95. No mechanical reproductions permitted. Limit one telephone or mail-in entry per person. 3. PRIZES: On or about 2/15/95, Promotion Mechanics, Inc., will conduct a random drawing from among all eligible entries. The following prizes will be awarded: (1) Grand Prize - Discovery Channel Adventure trip for two. Winner may choose one of the following trips: Whale Watching in San Diego, CA, valued at $4,396; Shark Dive in Australia, valued at $14,000; Animal Safari in Botswana, valued at $14,000; Sky Warriors in Atlanta, GA, valued at $8,996; Aerospace Adventure at Space Coast, FL, valued at $3,996; or D-Day Commemorative Week in London or Paris and Normandy, valued at $6,796. Prize consists of the basic adventure selected, round trip coach air travel from major commercial airport closest to winner's residence, double room accommodations, and $1,000 spending money. All other expenses are winner's responsibility. Actual value of prize will depend on winner's residence and seasonal rates. Winner must give 45 days

Thing!

Sweepstakes and For Real!

From the depths of the oceans to the depths of outer space, nobody takes you there like The Discovery Channel. And now we'll take one lucky winner there for real in **The Explore Your World Sweepstakes.**

Stop by any participating CD-ROM retail store and pick up your mail-in entry form today! Hurry—sweepstakes ends January 15, 1995. And if you're the winner, you'll explore your world for real!

AEROSPACE ADVENTURE IN FLORIDA

Beyond Planet Earth shows you the heavens. Take a heavenly trip to Space Port USA for a real shuttle launch and simulated mission.

SHARK DIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Sharks! brings you close to these monsters. And your trip to Australia will bring you up close...for real.

GRAND PRIZE

Trip for Two to one of the adventures described, plus $1000 spending money. (Up to $14,000 value.)

1ST PRIZE

Multimedia computer with CD-ROM drive. ($2,000 value.)

(200) 2ND PRIZES

The Discovery Channel T-shirts and ballcaps. ($20 value.)

SAFARI IN AFRICA

Professor Iris takes kids on a play safari. You can go to Botswana for a real one!

THE Discovery CHANNEL® CD-ROM™

advance notice of travel plans. Travel and accommodations are subject to availability and applicable restrictions. Trip must be taken by 2/28/96. (1) First Prize - Multimedia Computer with CD ROM. Approximate retail value $2,000. (200) Second Prizes - The Discovery Channel T-shirts and Ballcaps Approximate retail value $20. Winners will be notified by mail. Odds of winning will depend upon the number of entries received. 4. GENERAL: Applicable federal, state and local taxes on prizes are the sole responsibility of winners. By participating, entrants agree to these rules and decisions of Promotion Mechanics which shall be final in all respects. An affidavit of eligibility and liability and (where legal) a publicity release will be required of Grand and First Prize winners, which must be returned within 15 days of notification of winning entry or prize may be forfeited. Travel companion will be required to timely execute a liability/publicity release. DCI disclaims any responsibility for injury arising from the acceptance or use of any prize. Each winner agrees to use of name and/or photograph for advertising, publicity and promotional purposes without compensation (unless prohibited by law). No prize transfer. No prize substitution except by sponsor due to unavailability or in case of Grand Prize security or safety considerations. The Discovery Channel, its subsidiaries, affiliates, service providers and agents are not responsible or liable for late or lost mail, technical or telephonic malfunctions, fraudulent calls, or incorrect, incomplete or inaccurate entry information whether caused by caller or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in this sweepstakes or by any human error which may occur in the processing of the entries to this sweepstakes. 5. WINNERS' LIST: For a list of major winners, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to be postmarked by 2/15/95 to: The Discovery Channel CD ROM Winners, PMI Station, P.O. Box 750, Southbury, CT 06488-0750. Discovery Communications, Inc., 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814

the Pagemaster™

THE THRILLING CD-ROM GAME THAT'S A CONTINUATION OF THE MOVIE!

First do your homework, then battle a dragon or two!

With **The Pagemaster™ CD-ROM game**, the adventure continues where the smash hit film leaves off! This dazzling, state-of-the-art game lets your kids use their imaginations to create a new, astounding, and totally awesome experience every time they play! **The Pagemaster™ CD-ROM game– Continue the Adventure!**

Turner Interactive

1994 Turner Publishing Inc. All Rights Reserved. Technical Portions © 1994, Mammoth Micro Productions, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
"The Pagemaster" Motion Picture © 1994 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation and Turner Pictures, Inc. All Rights Reserved.
"The Pagemaster" and related characters are trademarks of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation

Turner Home Entertainment

kid raves

HONEST APPRAISALS FROM OUR YOUNG EXPERTS

A prince? *Kitchen cabinet?* It all rings a *Belle*

Beauty and the Beast: Be Our Guest
Disney Software
Ages: 7 and up

★ ★ ★ 1/2

by carol ellison

There's no Academy Award for Best Film Adapted for a Children's Computer Game, but if you ask the young experts in the *HomePC* Kids' Lab, it's no contest. The winner is Beauty and the Beast in a landslide.

"I just like watching it; it's very pretty," said 8-year-old Jaime, as a picture of a stained glass window in the Beast's castle scrolled by. The narrated introduction is based on the hit Disney film, but Jaime could have skipped the formalities; she'd already played the game four times in our lab and knew the tale by heart.

Eleven-year-old Jonathan hummed along with the theme music while his 7-year-old sister, Victoria, sang along and 12-year-old Michael joyfully mimicked the French accent of Lumiere, the talking candlestick.

After the preliminaries, kids join Lumiere, Chip the talking teacup, Cogsworth the proper clock and other household friends to prepare the castle for the ball, where they hope Beauty and the Beast will fall in love and break the castle's evil spell. Children maneuver Lumiere through dance practice, uncover the appropriate flower arrangements in the winter garden and sort the laundry to help the talking wardrobe assemble Beauty's dress. When the kids have successfully completed each of the five games, Beauty and the Beast dance across a splendid ballroom, clearly in love.

Despite its romantic theme, which usually turns off the boys in the Kids' Lab, this is one of the few programs that shows universal appeal. Such is the power of the cinema. Over time, however, that appeal could wear thin. Obstacles in the games change at random to ensure repeated play (the location of the flowers in the winter garden, for example), but the challenges are

Also reviewed in Kid Raves

- **Funny Fruit Faces**
- **Spell It 3**
- **Discovering America**
- **Mario Teaches Typing**
- **Willy Wabbit**
- **At Bat**
- **Little Monster at School**

★ **Reading the stars:** Each program reviewed in this section is rated on a scale of 0 to 4 stars based on how well it sustained the interest of children in our Kids' Lab, their enthusiasm about playing it again, educational content, reference materials, graphics and sound quality, sensitivity to youngsters' skills and whether the kids just plain had fun.

similar. Diana, 12, decided that "it's a great game, but eventually you'll get tired of it."

Nevertheless, for as long as they're roaming the castle, kids will love being Beauty and the Beast's guests.

$24.95 (DOS) from Disney Software, (800) 688-1520, (818) 543-4300.

Fruit salad *dressing*

Funny Fruit Faces
Seven Hills Software
Ages: 3 to 8

★ ★ ★

"Those are dog ears." Jason protested, but Sammy dragged the ears onto the tomato character he was creating anyway.

"I *want* dog ears," insisted Sammy.

"But then he won't be a kid," Jason pointed out.

Sammy stuck with the dog ears, but the two 4-year-olds continued to consult over the eyes, legs and hair they wanted to put on the ripe, red fruit.

Think of Mr. Potato Head on the PC, and you get the picture about Funny Fruit Faces. Kids drag eyes, noses, mouths and more onto a plum, a strawberry, a pineapple or any of 30 other favorites from the fruit bowl using the mouse.

The game's activities are limited

to the fruit faces—once kids tire of playing with the fruit, there isn't anything else to keep them busy. Still, the activity does leave kids lots of room to be creative while it lasts—Thomas, 4, gave his gooseberry a neektie for a nose—and that was enough to keep our kids coming back for seconds for a while.

$49.95 (Windows, Macintosh) from Seven Hills Software, (800) 200-4555, (904) 575-0566.

The kids have their say

One of the fascinating things about watching children play at the computer is how easily they make such play a part of their world. When the story and the music are familiar, and the software lives up to the kids' expectations, you can't tear them away from the keyboard.

Interactivity is more than just clicking a mouse. If children don't identify with characters, the play is less likely to fire their imaginations.

Beauty and the Beast: Be Our Guest features familiar characters, voices and music. Victoria, 7, hummed and swayed with the songs. "I saw the movie *and* the play," she explained. Michael, 12, mimicked Lumiere the candlestick. "*Sacre bleu*, we have to start again," he said when he missed a beat in the dance game.

It's this type of interaction that

we watch for when we test software in the *HomePC* Kids' Lab. Our "experts," ages 3 to 14, come to us from the CMP Publications' Child Care Center, which operates both preschool and after-school programs for more than 100 sons and daughters of employees at *HomePC*'s parent company.

The software reviews you see in Kid Raves use a four-star rating: thoroughbreds get four stars; nags get a zero. The bulk of our ratings are based on kids' reactions. We also consider issues that concern adults: ease of installation, technical difficulties, the amount of direction kids require to understand a program, educational content and the opinions of our experts' parents and teachers.

Our hearty thanks to those kids and adults who helped with this month's reviews: Preschoolers Sammy Colonna, Andrew Lou, Max Sanacore, Jason Siegel and Thomas Volpe; students Heather Baninger, Jonathan and Victoria Baston, Chrissie Boehme, Diana, Russell and Douglas Garber, Billy Guarino, Jaime Hamer, Brianna Kelley, Matthew Musumeci, Billy Myers, Samantha Sanacore, Alana Schwab, Jessica Segesdi and Michael Schimel; teachers Debbie Doyle and Denise Steele; and Anne Erbes, director of the CMP Publications' Child Care Center. —*C.E.*

Bayou a vowel?

Spell It 3
Davidson & Associates
Ages: 6 and up

Heather, 9, earned a perfect score in the first round of Spell It 3 by identifying compound words to complete the sentences that appeared on the screen. "This is easy for me," she confided. "I love spelling."

But as she tried her hand at more difficult levels, things got a little trickier. Spell It 3 truly merits its "6 and up" age rating. Kids play at any of six difficulty levels; the "grand master" setting will challenge even the best wordsmiths as they fix misspellings, create words out of jumbled letters to complete crossword puzzles and fill in the blanks in words and sentences.

Each game has a bayou theme. In Bullfrog Log, kids jump frogs across lilypads and logs covered with misspelled words to get to one that's spelled correctly; in Leap to Complete, the frogs race to catch the passing letter that will complete a given word—and avoid alligators.

Occasionally, the games require more guesswork than skill. In Leap to Complete, for instance, kids are given clues like "_ap," but it seems only one letter will fit the bill; if the program wants "Cap," for example, passing M's and N's won't complete the word.

★ ★ ★

Nevertheless, the variety of spelling puzzles and difficulty levels will keep kids entertained as they learn. And when they're ready, would-be walking dictionaries can test their knowledge in an on-screen spelling bee.

$49.95 (DOS) from Davidson & Associates, (800) 545-7677, (310) 793-0600.

Pounce *de Leon*

Discovering America
Lawrence Productions
Ages: 8 and up

The early explorers didn't exactly come to America to admire the landscape. They came in search of gold, and conquest was their modus operandi. Lawrence Productions drives home that reality in Dis-

covering America, a simulation game that challenges kids' knowledge of when and how to negotiate, befriend and convert the natives and/or pillage their villages in order to find riches and gain honor for the queen of Spain.

Kids take the roles of Spanish explorers dropped off at a site in Florida by Christopher Columbus to chart the new world and learn about its treasures. They have three years (a few hours in computer time) to complete the task and return to the mouth of the great river on the gulf (the as-yet-unnamed Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico) in order to meet the boats that will carry them back across the Atlantic.

The game doesn't pass judgment on the ethics of the enterprise, and it's up to the kids to decide which strategy works best in which village. But experts in our Kids' Lab had as much fun plundering the New World as they did mapping it.

Diana, 12, decided to befriend the locals, while her brother, Doug, 10, staged raids.

"Why did you pillage them?" she asked him.

"Because they didn't like me and refused to trade," he said.

When Diana finally tried pillaging, she didn't receive much of a reason to believe peaceful negotiations pay off: She found a piece of an amulet that her new "friends" had withheld, which could help her reach the City of Gold.

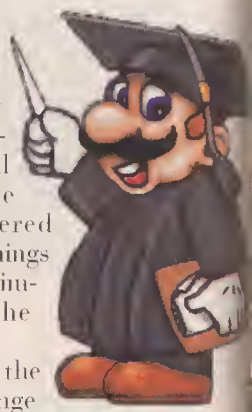
The game encourages kids to read descriptions of the various native villages and the exploits of the explorers, study a map of the southeastern United States and consider the risks and rewards of their behavior in an unknown land. It's sure to inspire an interest in this country's origins—and in the finer points of computer diplomacy.

$59.95 (DOS, Macintosh) from Lawrence Productions, (616) 665-7075.

Chairman of the keyboard

Mario Teaches Typing
Interplay
Ages: 4 to 14

For an arcade hero, Mario proved to be quite a successful teacher for the young experts in our *HomePC* Kids' Lab. Even the 4-year-olds, who typically are intimidated a bit by the keyboard because they are still unsure about the alphabet, discovered they could make things happen on screen simply by pushing the right keys.



Adults can set the program to challenge kids to find letters on the home (middle) row only—a good option for very young children. As kids become more skilled, parents can add rows and shift-key combinations to help kids learn to type parentheses and exclamation points. Throughout the game, kids must find and match keys to the letters that appear on the screen. With every correct move, Mario jumps hurdles and leaps in the air to catch stars and score extra points.

Preschoolers got past their wariness of the keyboard within a few minutes, and older children quickly learned that they could finish faster if they used the fingering illustrated on screen by hands with color-coded fingers. But it didn't take long for kids of every age group to realize that they'd master the game more quickly in pairs: One child called out the letters that appeared on screen while the other typed. Soon they were chattering away at the keys.

"Yeeeeeeeeeeeee," screeched Thomas, 4.

"R! R! Rrrrrrr! Where are you?" called Jason, 4.

A good educational program should be one part learning and two parts fun, and Mario Teaches Typing is. Even adults who need to brush up on their skills may find themselves sitting in on the lessons.

$29.95 (DOS), $34.95 (Macintosh), $39.95 (DOS CD-ROM) from Interplay, (800) 969-GAME, (714) 553-6655.

Before your kids get any of these,

try them FREE and 30 more

Choose software to try, and buy instantly.

Cruise the Club Room for hours of fun.

all on one Club KidSoft CD!

Try the top 40

Sample more than 40 of the top programs for kids on the KidSoft CD. Sample the best reading, math, science, and other educational software. (No shareware.)

Buy the top 40

Purchase full versions of top kids' programs—complete with documentation—right off the Club KidSoft CD! All it takes is one toll-free call to KidSoft. (No modem!) And about 10 seconds of typing. We give you the "code" to "unlock" the program and it's yours.

Explore the Extras

Most sampler CDs just give you demos. But the Club KidSoft CD is filled with special surprises. Just for kids. There's an art gallery of kid's computer creations. Multimedia stories. Plus, contests, activities, cool music, and lots more.

Special Bonus

Each CD also comes with the first software magazine for kids. Learn about the newest software and cool ways to use it. Plus, fun computer activities, contests, and more.

FREE TRIAL!

Join today and we'll send you the first CD and magazine absolutely FREE. Then you pay $7.95 for each additional quarterly issue. At no risk. If you're not completely satisfied, cancel anytime.

So, what are you waiting for?

800•354•6150

KIDSOFT®

A little excitement, and then it **wanes**

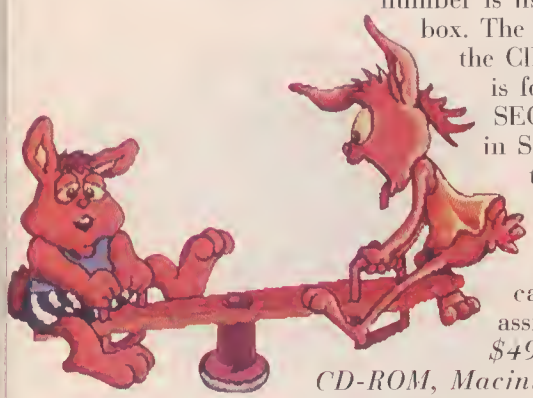
Willy Wabbit
Systems Education Center
Ages: 4 and up

Willy Wabbit invites children into his treehouse on a rainy day to read his magic books. But you'll soon find yourself wondering whether kids wouldn't be better off just curling up with a real book on their own. Unlike the stars of many computer-based books for children, Willy, a bunny, is not very interactive.

The books show kids a series of informational screens and illustrations, which, among other things, describe global landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, the Great Wall of China and the Leaning Tower of Pisa. Animations play as kids click on objects, but even though Willy appears in most screens and kids can click on the instruments in his music book to hear them play, you won't find the kinds of stories that engage kids' imaginations so well in other interactive books.

"I want to see what's in every book," Billy, 8, insisted. But after completing all seven, he was bored with the program. There are no games or activities to hold kids' attention for long.

And although the program is distributed in the United States by Great Bear Software, the U.S. phone number is listed only on the box. The number listed in the CD-ROM's manual is for the developer, SEC, which is based in Singapore. If you throw away the box, you may be facing a pricey international call for technical assistance.



$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM), distributed by Great Bear for Systems Education Centre, (800) 795-4325, (510) 631-1600.

In a league of *her own*

At Bat
Jambone Comics
Ages: 4 to 12

Thomas and Sammy, both 4, didn't know what to make of At Bat. Standing over home plate, cheerfully swinging a baseball bat, was Rudy, the program's main character—a girl.

Neither boy thought girls were supposed to play baseball, but Rudy looks like an all-star, knocking in the winning run, teaching Joey, her little brother, how to play, and not once worrying about a salary cap or stalled labor negotiations, unlike the big leaguers.

At Bat is a charming interactive story that advances as kids click on flashing arrows to hear and read

the next "page." They can click on buttons at the top of the screen at any time to go to the house, park or yard and play (in the yard, they can even hit the ball through a neighbor's window) with Rudy and her teammates.

"Try that again," urged Sammy when Thomas clicked on the doorbell at Rudy's house and a dragonfly flew out. When Sammy took the mouse, he clicked again and again on the doorbell, chuckled each time the dragonfly appeared, then ducked through the gate into the backyard to take a little batting practice.

Animations, games and baseball trivia pop up just about everywhere you click in this program; older kids will enjoy soaking up the tidbits of baseball history and getting tips on their game. The illustration, narration and games in the program are all top-notch. And parents who are sensitive to stereotypes will appreciate the efforts made to balance Rudy's team with girls and boys of many cultures.

$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Jambone Comics, (604) 739-7281.

THANK HEAVEN FOR LITTLE GIRLS.

Now your children can have fun singing, reading, coloring and counting with Thumbelina, the tiny girl from Don Bluth's popular animated feature film. Thumbelina: An Interactive Adventure on CD-ROM creates a fun-filled wonderland for kids to explore. Children of all ages will sing-along, read, paint with a "magical paint brush" and enjoy traditional story-telling narrative with Thumbelina and her animated friends. Your child will be treated to breathtaking, full-motion animation by Don Bluth, a rich musical score by Barry Manilow and original dialogue featuring the delightful voices of Carol Channing, Jodi Benson and Gilbert Gottfried. Discover the sheer magic of this little lady that will provide hours of big fun for your kids.

Free with Thumbelina CD-ROM purchase— The Thumbelina Bracelet. A $12.95 value.

To order Thumbelina: An Interactive Adventure on CD-ROM, see your favorite software retailer or call our toll-free number: 1-800-482-3766.

TIME WARNER INTERACTIVE

CD-ROM

TIME WARNER INTERACTIVE • 2210 WEST OLIVE AVENUE, BURBANK, CA 91506.
INTERNET: TWIINFO@AOL.COM. AOL: KEYWORD:TWI.

Monster *smash*

Little Monster at School
Living Books
Ages: 3 to 8

★ ★ ★ 1/2

Just Grandma and Me, a book by children's author Mercer Mayer, became an instant classic when it was released as the first Living Book on CD-ROM. Now, the ever-growing series of Living Books returns with a second title from Mercer Mayer.

Little Monster at School has all the charm of Just Grandma and Me. Kids read along with the narrated story, following Little Monster, a young creature who resembles a rhinoceros, from the time he wakes up in his bedroom, through his day at school, until he walks home with his friend, Yally. Objects in every scene come alive in colorful animations whenever kids click on them.

"Do the lamp. Do the lamp," 9-year-old Heather urged Samantha, 7. When Samantha clicked on the lamp, it spun and switched on and off. Then she clicked on a poster of

an astronaut, who floated off the paper to the tune of The Skater's Waltz. As it played, Jessica, 8, stepped forward and spun her arms in a quick ballet motion while dancing along to the refrain.

"Oh, this is so cute," Heather declared.

Owners of other Living Books will find their characteristic charm, if no surprises, in this one. Mercer Mayer fans won't be disappointed; it will make a fine addition to their software library.

$39.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from Broderbund's Living Books, (800) 521-6263, (415) 382-4600. ●

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested retail unless otherwise noted.

Discovering Endangered Wildlife. CD-ROM Interactive Fun and Learning.

Endorsed by the National Wildlife Federation TM

Now, with **Discovering Endangered Wildlife**, your children can learn about one of the most important topics of their generation, taught through fun games and activities designed for children ages 9 and up. With stunning nature photography, wildlife sounds, and narrated text, children learn about the habits, diets, daily routines, and key threats to endangered species.

Not just a reference tool, **Discovering Endangered Wildlife** provides a wide variety of skill reinforcement for problem solving, reading comprehension and memory skills, as well as in-depth information on each animal. Game activities include:

- Multimedia Crosswords
- Word Find
- Memory Match
- Jigsaw Puzzles and Much More!

Call Toll-Free Now
1-800-433-4464
for the Dealer Nearest You!

LYRIQ

Great Holiday Gift!

Okay, so someone knows more about kids than we do.

Even without the big belly and rosy cheeks, kids are eager to tell us exactly what they want. What they think. How they feel.

And that makes all the difference. Because kids are different. They don't all learn the same way or like the same things.

Which is why our award-winning library of interactive multimedia software includes four language arts and three math programs, packed with animals...aliens...airplanes...or arcade-style games.

With such a selection, you're sure to find the perfect one for your child. Especially when you consider that each was created by a team of educational experts who know as much about kids as they do about learning.

So visit a Sanctuary Woods retailer or call 1-800-943-3664 for more information.

I-LearN
SANCTUARY WOODS

© 1994 Sanctuary Woods Multimedia, Inc. All rights reserved. I-Learn is a trademark of Sanctuary Woods Multimedia, Inc. Sanctuary Woods is a registered trademark of Sanctuary Woods Multimedia Corporation.

FREE SEIKO Travel & Alarm CLOCK with purchase of any Smart Label Printer. Call 1-800-688-0817 for details. Offer valid from October 1 - December 31, 1994.

There are many ways to address letters.

And to make labXels.

But there's only one smart way to do both.

Pocket your pen. Toss your typewriter. And leave your laser printer alone. Because if you're using any of them to address envelopes or make labels, you're making things hard on yourself. After all, you could be using a Smart Label Printer.

These little machines feature powerful, easy-to-use software. So you can print labels in an instant without exiting an application whether you're working with a Windows,™ DOS or Macintosh® system.

Smart Label software can automatically capture an address or other text and graphics from your computer screen. Print it instantly, or save it to the built-in database. It even lets you personalize labels with graphics, bar codes, digital images, and a selection of over 50 fonts. In short, this unique software makes Smart Label Printers the time-saving, hassle-free, fool-proof solution for labeling everything from envelopes to name tags, file folders to floppy disks.

The Smart Label Printer Pro™ and the Smart Label Printer Plus.® Making labels any other way just wouldn't be smart.

For more information, call 1-800-688-0817.

SII
Seiko Instruments

©1994 Seiko Instruments Inc. "SII" is a registered trademark of Seiko Instruments Inc. "Smart Label Printer Pro" is a trademark and "Smart Label Printer Plus" is a registered trademark of Seiko Instruments U.S.A Inc. All other brand names and products are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders. All labels created using an IBM compatible system. Graphics capability with Windows & Macintosh only.

home library

ELECTRONIC BOOKS AND KNOWLEDGE FOR EVERYONE

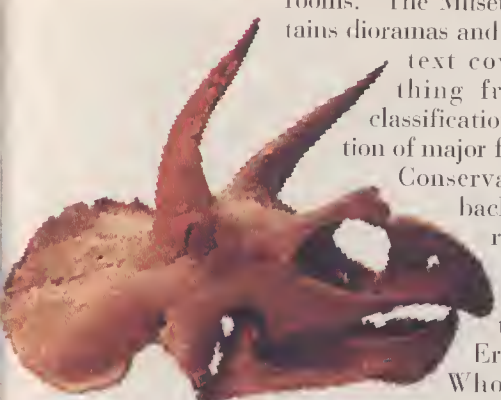
Smithsonian Institution Dinosaur Museum
Software Marketing
(Science)

D.C.? Looks like it stands for *Dinosaur Capital*

★ ★ ★

Before *Jurassic Park*, before Barney, even before *The Flintstones*, people who thought dinosaurs were cool could get an eyeful at the Smithsonian Institution. Now that dinosaurs seem to be everywhere, it's no surprise the Smithsonian has compiled photos, paintings and text from its own National Museum of Natural History in Washington and 24 other world-class museums (including the Dinosaur National Monument in, yes, Dinosaur, Colo.) to get in on the explosion in dino-related software.

The Dinosaur Museum, intended for enthusiasts of all ages, has three "rooms." The Museum Room contains dioramas and skeletons, with text covering everything from dinosaur classifications to the location of major fossil finds. The Conservatory provides background material, such as information on life-forms of the Mesozoic Era and a Who's Who in dinosaur research. The Game Room offers a simple trivia/picture-matching quiz.



Unfortunately, while the material is interesting, the program misses much of multimedia's potential. The audio is limited to the pronunciation of those oh-so-tricky dino names and a few annoying jungle sounds in the background, and the disk contains no video or animation. And the software's "3-D option" isn't much of a technological marvel: Don a pair of cardboard 3-D glasses (included) to view select skulls, skeletons and dioramas.

Still, the Smithsonian has always made learning fun, and this trip back in time is no exception. It's not perfect, but it makes a good start at bringing the museum's fine tradition to the home computer.

$59.95 (Windows, Macintosh) from Software Marketing, (800) 545-6626, (602) 893-3377.

by charles bowen

Also reviewed in Home Library

- **Multimedia Schubert: The Trout Quintet**
- **World Atlas, Version 5**
- **Space Missions**

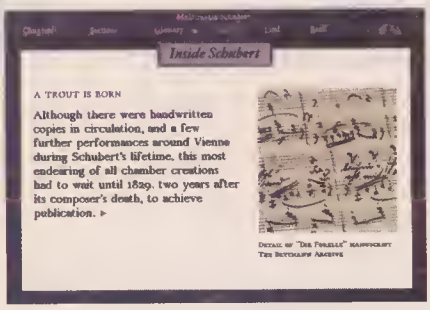
★ **Reading the stars:** Each program reviewed in this section is rated on a scale of 0 to 4 stars based on its ease of use, content, reference tools, sound and graphics, and presentation, in terms of both entertainment value and usefulness.

Visiting *Schubert's* alley

Multimedia Schubert: The Trout Quintet
Microsoft
(Music)

If you're fishing for a gift to give the music lover on your holiday list, try this excellent multimedia treatment of Schubert's "Trout Quintet."

Multimedia Schubert features the composer's Quintet in A Major, dubbed "The Trout Quintet" because of its brilliant water imagery. As you listen to the piece, on-screen text by music critic Alan Rich, who writes for the *Los Angeles Daily News*, dissects the music's structure, themes and techniques. "Listen for the thump-thump of the double bass pizzicato," he advises us at one point. "It's one of the few times that device is used in this piece."



You can play the composition in its entirety (about 40 minutes), or you can listen to it one phrase at a time. Either way, you can back up or click on highlighted words in the text at any point for definitions and background information.

Text and still pictures tell the story of Schubert's brief (1797-1828) but productive life, as well as the origin of the Trout Quintet. Sound and text are beautifully synched to demonstrate the specifics of this piece—Schubert's use of musical figures to suggest fish frolicking in sparkling mountain streams—and the fundamentals of classical music in general. In discussing the sonata form, for instance, Rich notes that both Schubert and Mozart would often quickly jump into a different key to keep listeners on their toes. Just click on an icon for an audio example; the word "here" even appears on screen at the precise moment the key changes.

★ ★ ★ ★

This is one of a series of music appreciation CD-ROMs from Microsoft; other discs highlight Beethoven, Stravinsky (reviewed in *HomePC* in August), Mozart and Strauss. Thanks to its truly interactive mix of sound and text, the series elegantly proves what the excitement over "multimedia" is all about.

$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080.

An absence of direction

World Atlas, Version 5
The Software Toolworks
(Geography, reference)

Pity the modern-day mapmakers. Just when they think they've got the world all figured out, somebody redraws the lines. As if to prove the point, Software Toolworks is already on the fifth edition of its World Atlas CD-ROM in only three years.

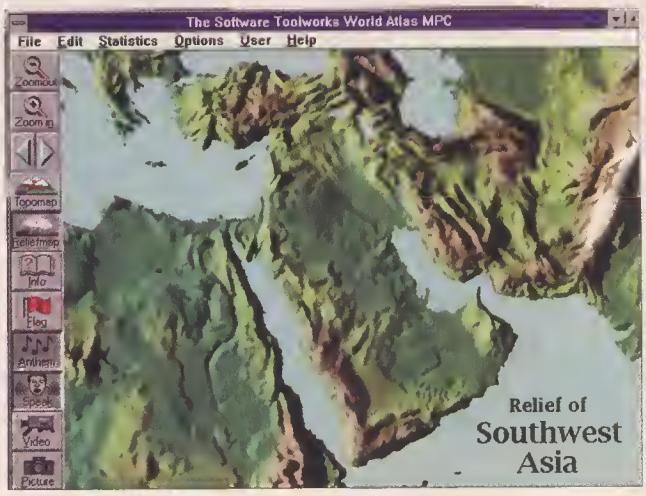
The newest version has been enhanced with more video clips of cities worldwide (150 in all), more color photographs (1,000) and more flags and national anthems (200). And the audio library not only provides correct pronunciations of country and city names (as it did in earlier versions), it also offers 15 common phrases in each of 30 languages.

But the maps, while up to date, are not very detailed. You can't zoom in on a country's states or provinces, much less see counties and small towns, and the 50 city maps are too vague to help anyone find their way around town.

★ ★ 1/2

World Atlas is fun to play with, and it's fine for elementary research. But for any travelers in need of detailed directions and concrete advice, this Atlas rates but a shrug.

$59.95 (Windows CD-ROM, Macintosh CD-ROM) from The Software Toolworks, (800) 234-3088, (415) 883-3000.



SoftCOOK PRESENTS

One of America's most visually stunning cookbooks
More than 400 recipes and 240 color pictures

M'm! M'm! Good! cooking begins with Campbell's family of quality products. The great-tasting recipes in this special collection include both new ideas and time-tested favorites - all of them have been streamlined for quick and easy preparation.

Softcook introduces "Campbell's Recipe Favorites" as one of the most comprehensive and easy-to-use computer cookbooks available today.

Add your own favorite and treasured recipes to create a personalized recipe collection you'll use every day!

From your computer to your table...

- Add your own recipes
- Extremely user-friendly, loaded with features – minimal computer knowledge required!
- Fast and simple installation procedure
- Illustrative 256 COLOR on-screen pictures
- Detailed user guide and on line help

You will use it every day!

MICROSOFT® WINDOWS™ COMPATIBLE

Campbell's™

THIS COMPLETE COMPUTER COOKBOOK, INCLUDES:

- Menu- and party-planning features
- Prep Time and Cook Time with every recipe
- On-screen help
- Super-fast Spell Check for all recipes and notes
- View pictures from diskette or install and remove pictures from hard disk with the touch of a key
- Export recipes to your favorite word processor
- On-line conversion calculator - Metric and Imperial measures
- Automatic data backup upon exiting software...

WITH CAMPBELL'S RECIPE FAVORITES, YOU CAN:

- Access more than 400 great-tasting recipes from Campbell's Kitchens
- View over 225 pictures IN FULL 256 COLORS
- Create your personal cookbook by adding your own recipes
- Add your personal comments to any recipe
- Print one or any combination of recipes at a time
- Prepare ingredient shopping list - by store and by aisle
- Plan your daily and weekly menus
- Search recipes by ingredients, preparation time, last served to a specific guest...including "recipe does NOT contain" search

...and much, much more!

THE SoftCOOK SERIES - The Only Computer Cookbook you will EVER need !

ALSO FROM MORAMAX, A FULL LINE OF COMPUTER COOKBOOKS TO PLEASE EVERY PALATE.

Complete with International and Special occasion recipes, wine suggestions and complete meal planning capabilities. Now available, is a total of over 1600 recipes packed with new features. As you read this, hundreds more are under preparation by the dedicated staff of MORAMAX SOFTWARE.
At MORAMAX, we take your pleasure seriously.

SOFTCOOK version 2.0 titles now available for DOS and Windows are:

POL MARTIN - "Love at First Bite"
POL MARTIN - "Supreme Cuisine"
POL MARTIN - "Modern American Cooking"

MICROSOFT® WINDOWS™ COMPATIBLE

Order now and receive any Softcook title for $34.95

40% off suggested list price of $59.95

1-800-518-CHEF (2433)

MORAMAX logiciels/software

MASTERCARD VISA AMERICAN EXPRESS Cards Welcome

SHIPPING AND HANDLING INCLUDED

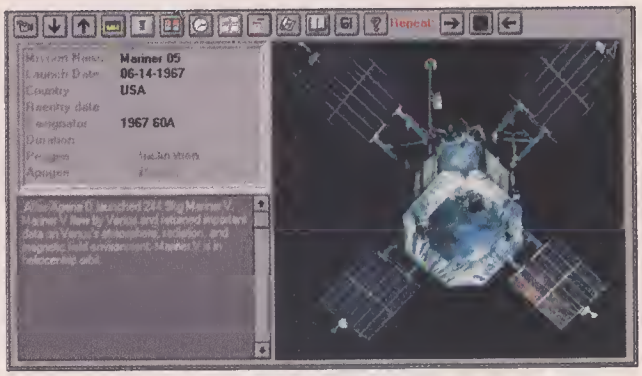
Info's a *blast*, but presentation's *off*

Space Missions
IMSI
(Science)

★ ★

Space Missions unwittingly illustrates how quickly we've come to take slick presentations on CD-ROM for granted. The information on the disc is excellent, but it's hard to ignore its lack of polish. For starters, the disc's narrator could use some practice. Her delivery is dull, and when she's not talking, most of the photos and video clips are accompanied by "dead air." Audio is often limited to the numerical drone of Mission Control counting down one of the hundreds of launches shown here.

That's a shame, because the data is worth seeing. Video, text, audio and still photos cover more than 1,600 missions. Film clips from the late '40s and early '50s report on the humble beginnings of the U.S. and Soviet space programs; new, more familiar images carry us into the '90s. Some moments are familiar and unforgettable: Neil Armstrong's "small step for man," the *Challenger* explosion. Others (a



silent film of the ill-fated 1957 *Explorer* launch, the fascinating planetary pictures from the *Mariner* and *Voyager* flights) are rare gems.

The final countdown? The disc won't be universally appreciated, but any die-hard space aficionado will have a field day with the facts here.

$49.95 (Windows CD-ROM) from IMSI, (800) 833-4674, (415) 454-7101. ●

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

We Make Learning More Fun!

TITLE/AGES	PRICE
EARLY CHILDHOOD	
BAILEY'S BOOK HOUSE / 2-6	30.00
RABBIT'S READY FOR LETTERS / 3-6	36.00
VELVETEEN RABBIT / 3-6	32.00
LEARNING THINGS / 4-8	36.00
READING/WRITING/SPELLING	
READER RABBIT 1 / 3-6	35.00
READER RABBIT 2 / 5-8	35.00
SPELLBOUND / 7-12	30.00
KID WORKS /ALL AGES	36.00
MATH	
MILLIE'S MATH HOUSE / 2-6	30.00
MATH RABBIT / 4-7	36.00
MATH BLASTER / 6-12	36.00
OPERATION NEPTUNE / 10 & UP	36.00

TITLE/AGES	PRICE
SOCIAL SCIENCES	
CARMEN WORLD DELUXE / ALL AGES	CALL
TIME RIDERS, AMERICAN HISTORY / 10+	36.00
AMAZON TRAIL / 9-17	36.00
OREGON TRAIL DELUXE / 10-17	42.00
CREATIVITY	
THE PRINT SHOP DELUXE / ALL AGES	49.00
KID PIX / ALL AGES	36.00
SCIENCE	
BODYWORKS: ADVENTURES IN ANATOMY	42.00
TREASURE COVE / 5-9	36.00
ZOO KEEPER / 6 & UP	30.00
GIZMOS & GADGETS / 7-12	36.00
TEST PREPARATION	
SAT	32.00
LSAT	39.00

TITLE/AGES	PRICE
FOREIGN LANGUAGES	
JAPANESE	46.00
FRENCH I	39.00
SPANISH I	39.00
ENTERTAINMENT	
LINKS 386 PRO GOLF	39.00
BIG HORN CHAMPIONSHIP COURSE	24.00
PEBBLE BEACH CHAMP. COURSE	24.00
SPEED RACER	36.00
CHESSMASTER 4000 TURBO	42.00
MARIO IS MISSING ! CD DELUXE	39.00
FALCON GOLD	CALL
MIG-29	32.00
PIRATES GOLD	CALL

E²Soft

TO ORDER CALL 1•800•631•7638

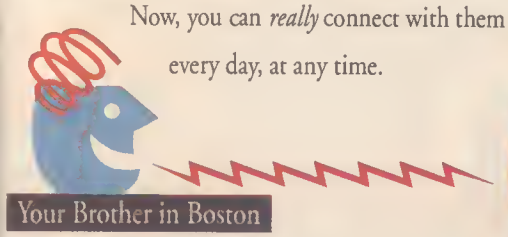
Satisfaction Guaranteed:
- 30 Day Money Back
- Expert Advice
- Free Technical Support
- Special Promotions

EDUCATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT, MULTIMEDIA SOFTWARE FOR HOME & SCHOOL
235 Chatham Drive, Colorado Springs, CO 80906 719-576-0672 Fax 719-576-1263
© E2Soft Corp. All Copyrights & Trademarks are the property of their respective owners. Prices are subject to change.

Introduce Your Family to the World of ImagiNation!

Discover a new world!

Join the network that's bringing families together. So what if your brother lives in Boston, your grandmother's in Seattle and your cousin is two states away? Now, you can *really* connect with them every day, at any time.



The ImagiNation Network offers a unique entertainment experience. Play dozens of games, and chat in real time with real friends and real family across town or clear across the country.

Entertainment, fun and friends...

Imagination has the classic board and card games we all grew up with, like bridge, chess, and hearts. But that's only the beginning. Spend time with a noted actor or writer in one of our regular forums. (It's your chance to ask that burning question the talk show host forgot.) Attend classes at our University. Meet new friends you didn't know you had when you share your interests and hobbies.

Special Introductory Offer...

Come join us for a free tour of the community that thousands of families throughout the country like to call home.

IMAGINATION!™

Get 5 FREE hours on The ImagiNation Network!

YES! Sign me up for 5 FREE HOURS on the ImagiNation Network.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ST ____ ZIP _____

PHONE (_____) _____
(In case we have a question about your order)

MEDIA *(check one)*: ☐ 3.5" diskettes ☐ CD-ROM

YOUR SIGNATURE _____

Offet Source Code: 814. Offer expires 1/31/95.
Offer valid to new members only. © 1994 The ImagiNation Network. All rights reserved.

The ImagiNation Network requires a valid major credit card and at least a 386 IBM PC compatible computer, a 2400 baud modem, a mouse, a keyboard, and at least 580 kb of available memory. I understand that my first month's membership is free and that it allows me five hours of network access in that calendar month with any additional hours I use billed at $3.50 each. Each subsequent month that I remain a member, I'll be charged $9.95 per month giving me five hours of network access time to be used in that calendar month with each additional hour billed at $3.50. If I choose, I can call anytime to cancel my membership. Otherwise I'll just keep having fun!

IMAGINATION!™

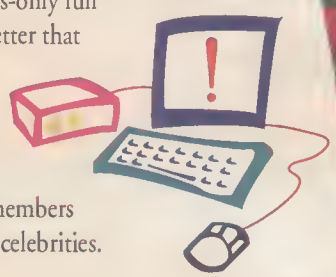
Start Exploring Your Own ImagiNation With 5 Free Hours!

Here's What You Get...

1. Mail in this card and in less than a week you will receive your software.

2. A brand new membership with 5 free hours of network time in that calendar month to get acquainted with new friends. After you use your free hours, you'll be billed at a rate of $3.50 per hour during the first month. Each month you remain a member, you'll be billed just $9.95 which includes 5 free hours; additional hours are billed $3.50 each.

3. A free subscription to *Imaginings*, the members-only full color newsletter that highlights coming attractions and features profiles of members and on-line celebrities.



The ImagiNation map...what you'll see when you sign on.

Here's All You Need...

1. I have at least a 386sx or better with a hard drive and 4MB RAM. I also have VGA graphics and a Microsoft-compatible mouse.

2. You bet I have at least a 2400 baud modem. You think I want to have all this fun by myself?

3. To use ImagiNation requires a major credit card. I have one!

4. ImagiNation. Of course I have that. Are you crazy?

And if you need help installing your ImagiNation Network software, or in using it, just give us a call. We're available at

1-800-IMAGIN-1

(1-800-462-4461) from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM, seven days a week.

The ImagiNation Network reserves the right to change features, rates, or specifications at any time.

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

We pay the postage!

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO.8 OAKHURST CA

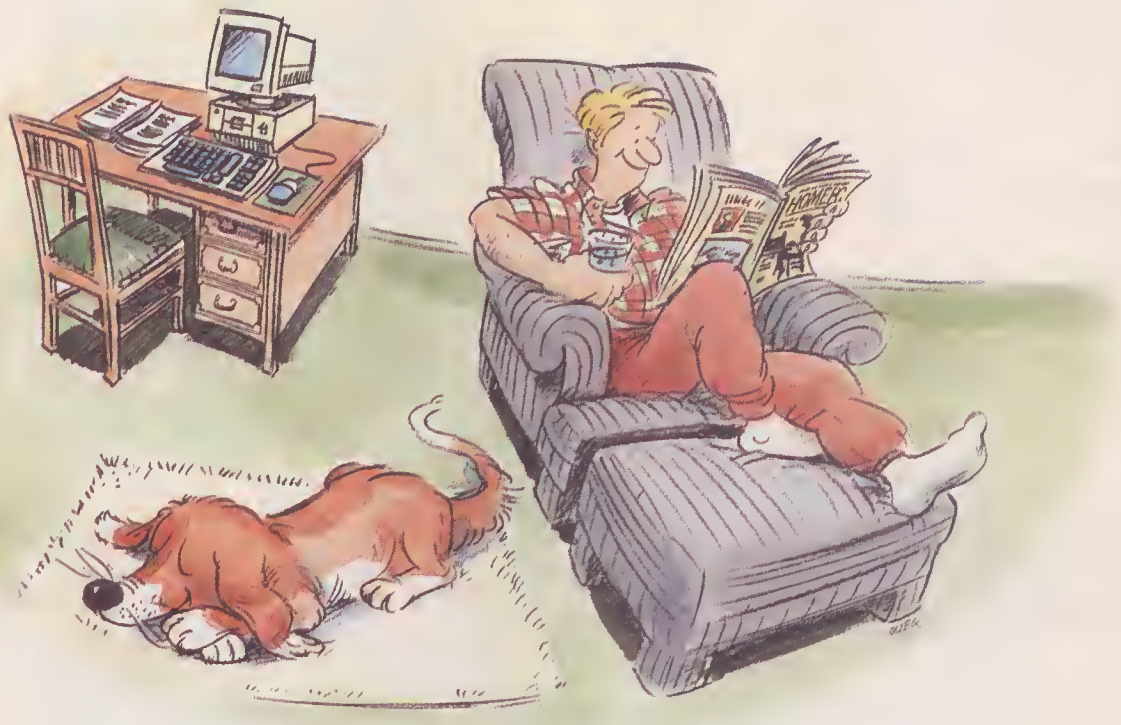
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY THE ADDRESSEE

THE IMAGINATION NETWORK
PO BOX 1550
OAKHURST CA 93644-9850

IMAGINATION!™

Get Your Family on ImagiNation Today...

In the next issue you'll find ...



Dieting & Fitness
Stay healthy all year round! Software programs that will help.

Clip Art
Jazz up business reports, family and association newsletters and even kids' school papers with this sampling of clip art programs.

Excel Tips
Helpful hints on how to use one of the most popular spreadsheet programs on the market.

Spreadsheet Projects
New and creative ways to put spreadsheet software to good use.

Behavior Modification
Use your PC to help reinforce your children's best behavior with rewards and certificates.

Heartwarming E-mail Tales
Delightful stories that illustrate how e-mail can bring people together, no matter how far apart they are.

How to Use E-mail
The ins and outs of e-mail, including finding addresses and sending mail to people on different on-line services.

Making Money with Your PC
Profiles of people whose home computers have played a critical role in shaping their financial future.

Consumer Lab
"Real" consumers test black-and-white and color inkjet and laser printers in the HomePC Lab.

Plus a whole lot more!

HOMEPC

It really hits home

To subscribe call 1-800-829-0119 or 904-445-4662 ext.420

The Future of Misers is Now.

Trust Me.

–Ebenezer Scrooge, Esq.

Curtis Space Miser™ Printer Station:
For center or rear feed perf printers.
#MS1GR (Granite)
#MS1CL (Charcoal)
Suggested Retail.....$64.95

Curtis Space Miser™ Computer Station:
For any personal computer.
#MS3GR (Granite)
#MS3CL (Charcoal)
Suggested Retail $99.95

Curtis Space Miser™ Universal Station:
For laser or ink jet printers, fax machines or copiers.
#MS2GR (Granite)
#MS2CL (Charcoal)
Suggested Retail.....$74.95

$10 Rebate Offer

Buy any Space Miser™ Station and Curtis will send you a check for $10! Complete coupon and send it with original sales receipt dated between 11/1/94 and 1/31/95, and the UPC label to: Curtis, 30 Fitzgerald Dr., Jaffrey, NH 03452.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY/STATE ..... ZIP .....

PHONE .....

This is a mail in offer only. Requests must be postmarked by 2/28/95. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

295

Introducing Curtis Space Miser™ Stations–

A futuristic solution to problems of the past. Turn small spaces into productive work areas of the present. Ultra strong, yet light in weight – a durable present day material that will set the wave of the future.

But best of all, you can save money if you buy now!

For the dealer nearest you, call 1-800-955-5544 Ext. 295

CURTIS
By ROLODEX

30 Fitzgerald Dr., Jaffrey, NH 03452 USA
©Copyright 1994 Curtis Mfg. Co., Inc.

do-it-yourself

nuts + bolts

STEP-BY-STEP TIPS

Adding a chip for multimedia muscle

1 **Unplug your computer's power cord and remove the cover.**

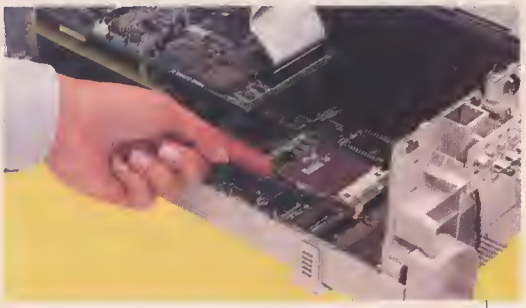
2 **Touch the PC's power supply for a few seconds to discharge any static electricity that has built up in your body.**

So you need more PC power but you're not about to spend $2,000 for a brand-new system? You may be able to breathe new life into your current computer simply by upgrading its processor, or "brain."

During the past two years, thousands of home computer users bought entry-level multimedia PCs based on Intel's 486SX/25 processor chip. Unfortunately, the 486SX/25 can't handle all of today's best multimedia programs, many of which require at least the more powerful 486DX2/50 chip. The good news is that you can make most 486SX/25-based computers run faster by switching the processor—a 486DX2/50 chip costs around $199. Some computers will support an even beefier upgrade—up to a 486DX4/100 (about $650). Check the owner's manual for your computer to see how fast it can go.

The upgrade process in these pages should take no more than 30 minutes (we upgraded a 486SX/25 to a 486DX2/50, but the steps apply to most processor upgrades). The only tools you'll need are those required to take the cover off your computer. As always, be sure to read all our instructions and the sections on processor upgrades in your computer's owner's manual carefully before you start.

by sean fulton



3 Locate the central processing unit (CPU), or processor, on your computer's motherboard (the big green board all the cards inside your PC plug into). The CPU is a square, black "chip" about two inches wide. Along one side of the CPU you will see a gray or silver lever.

4 Lift the lever with your finger until it's nearly upright.

5 Grab the CPU from two sides and pull it straight up. Be careful not to twist it. Do not use pliers, a screwdriver or any other tools to lift the chip; doing so might damage the chip or twist the delicate pins beneath it. (Long fingernails could be helpful here.)

6 Lift the CPU straight up out of its socket. Don't twist it or turn it until the pins under the chip have cleared the socket.

7 You're about to handle a sensitive—and expensive—piece of equipment, so ground yourself again. Now, take your new processor out of the box. Store your old CPU in the box the new processor came in; you never know when it might come in handy.

8 One corner of your new CPU will be flattened out. It may not be obvious at first, so look carefully.

Join Morgan and his pals in two hilarious interactive adventures!

Recess in Greece

Take a fresh look at an old classic as you guide Morgan through episodes of Homer's classic, The Iliad. Prepare to meet zany characters, find clues and solve tricky puzzles along the way. This wildly creative romp through history is more than a story -- it's a cultural adventure!

Morgan has fallen into Ancient Greece and it's up to you to help him find his way back to the 20th century!

Morgan's Trivia Machine

Laugh and learn as you challenge HAM 9000 to a hilarious game of facts, facts, facts! Choose from 6 difficulty levels and 3 awesome activities such as mountain climbing (on Mars!) to learn science, geography and interesting facts about the world.

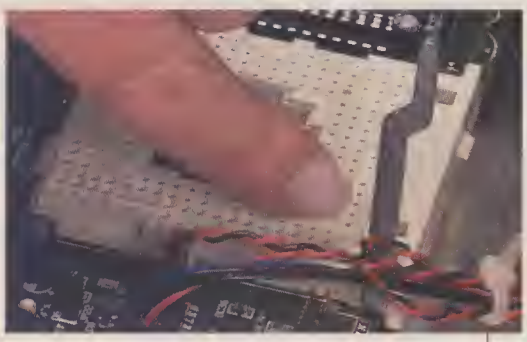
Play along or challenge a friend to this madcap adventure of nonstop learning, laughter and fun!

FREE SAMPLER! For a free Morgan sampler disc call **415.616.6856** while supplies last.

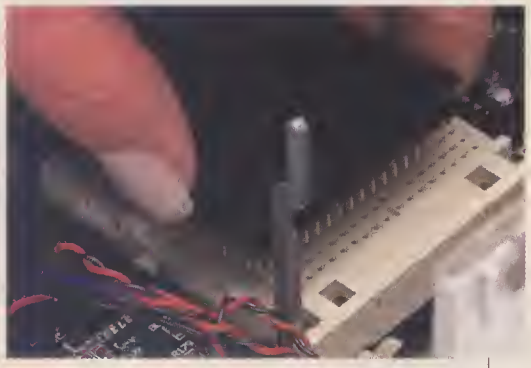
©1994 Morgan Interactive, Inc. All rights reserved. Morgan's Trivia Machine and Recess in Greece are trademarks of Morgan interactive, inc. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation, inc. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer, Inc.

Morgan interactive

CD-ROM Macintosh and Windows
Available at Babbages, BestBuy, Egghead, Electronics Boutique, CompUSA, Computer City, and Software Etc.



9 Check the CPU socket inside the computer for the "rounded corner." It's usually easy to spot. The holes in the socket are in rows and form neat, orderly corners on three sides; the one side that seems to have its holes scattered at random is the rounded corner.



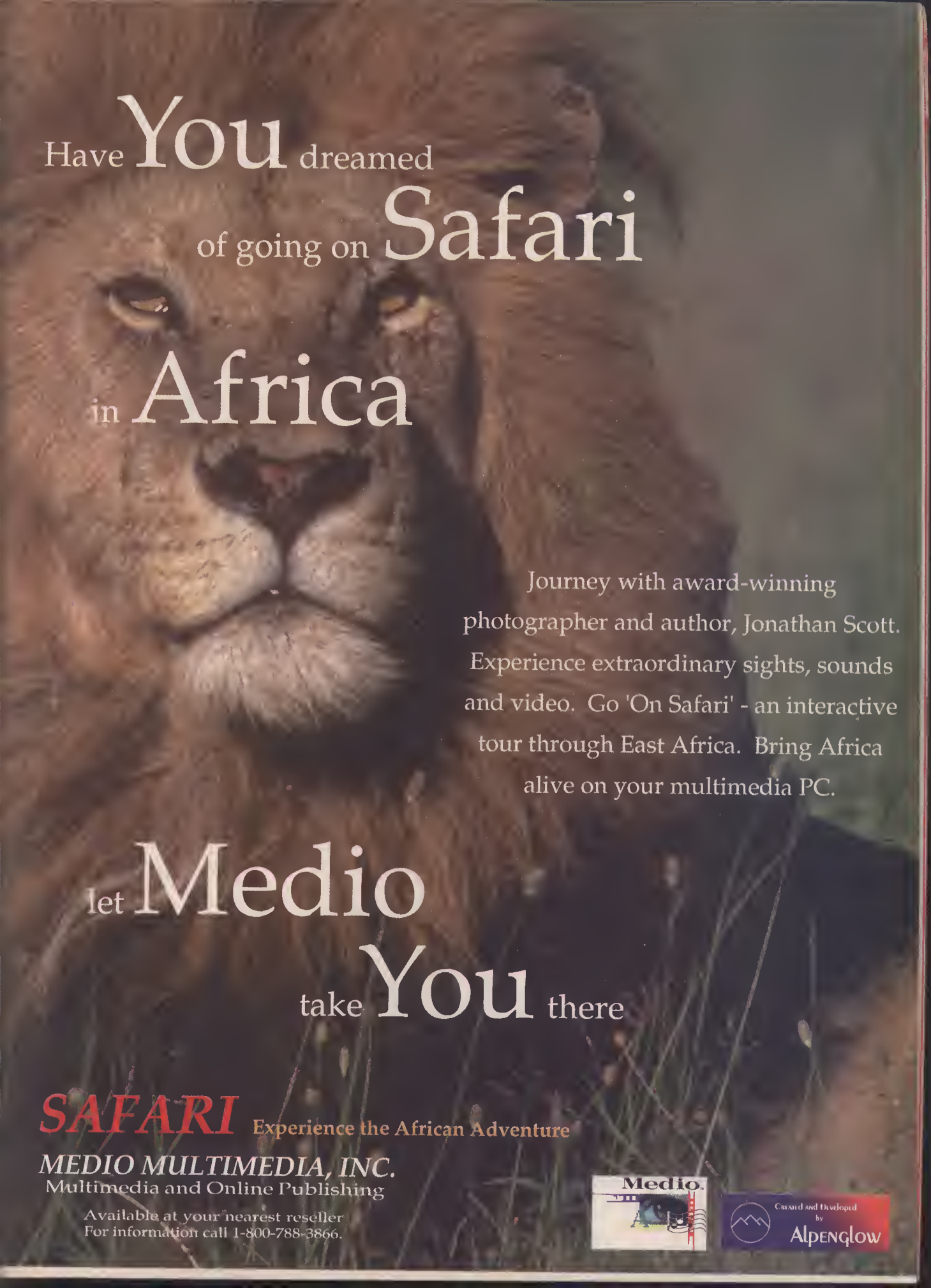
10 Line up the flat corner of the CPU with the rounded corner of the CPU socket.

11 Make sure the pins on the bottom of the CPU are lined up with the holes in the CPU socket. Hold the chip at its sides and *gently* press the new processor into the socket. Don't push from the top; you may damage the heat dissipater attached to the top of the processor. You won't feel anything click or lock; just press the processor in until it stops.

12 Push the gray or silver lever back into the "down" position so it lies against the motherboard. This will lock the CPU in place.

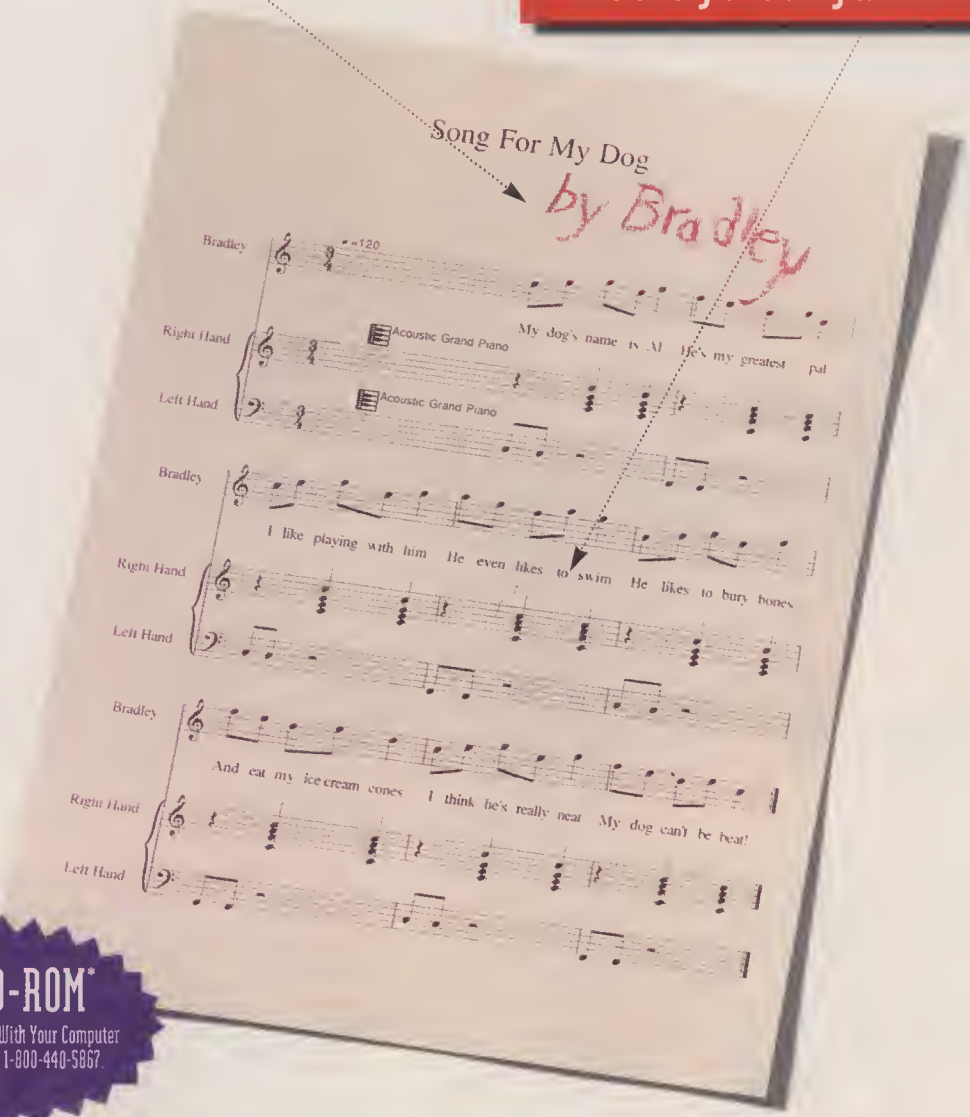
13 Check the owner's manual for your computer to see if any jumpers or switches on the motherboard need to be changed after a processor upgrade. Some computers require you to change a switch or two in order to accommodate the faster processor. Any necessary changes should be explained in the section on upgrading your processor.

14 Boot up your computer. When it starts, it should display on screen what type of processor it is using. Check to see that it lists the correct chip, and get ready to fly. ●


Have You dreamed
of going on Safari
in Africa
Journey with award-winning photographer and author, Jonathan Scott. Experience extraordinary sights, sounds and video. Go 'On Safari' - an interactive tour through East Africa. Bring Africa alive on your multimedia PC.
let Medio
take You there
SAFARI Experience the African Adventure
MEDIO MULTIMEDIA, INC.
Multimedia and Online Publishing
Available at your nearest reseller
For information call 1-800-788-3866.
Medio.
Created and Developed by
Alpenglow

Bradley's handwriting, age 8.

Bradley's songwriting, age 8.



Free CD-ROM*
contains Making Music With Your Computer and much more. Call 1-800-440-5867.

Introducing ConcertWare for Macintosh® and Windows™. The fun, new way for songwriters of all ages to play and print music using a multimedia computer. Compose totally original music using your keyboard, mouse or any MIDI instrument. Play it back, and see it displayed in standard musical notation.

The ConcertWare Music Studio. A specially-priced package that lets you plug in and play. Complete with software, full size MIDI keyboard and adapter cables. For a limited time only

Print professional quality sheet music with as many as 32 parts, plus lyrics. To order ConcertWare, or for more details, call our toll-free number right away.

Use the on-screen keyboard to play, edit or just have fun experimenting with music.

ConcertWare®

1 800 440 5867

*Plus $4.95 shipping and handling charge. Available to U.S. residents only. While supplies last. ConcertWare and the musical zebra are trademarks of Jump! Software, Inc. or its licensors. © 1994 Jump! Software, Inc. All rights reserved.

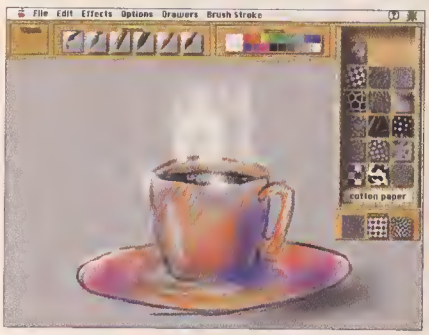
do-it-yourself

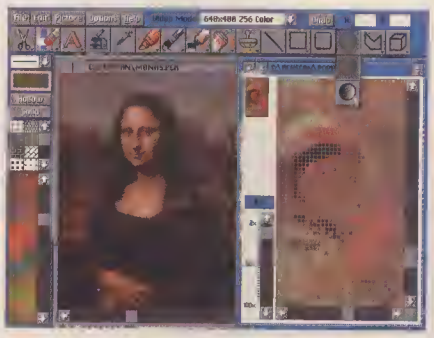
hobbies + lifestyles

THE PC WAY

The arts and leisure intersection

Remember when you were a kid and you wouldn't think twice about taking out your crayons and coloring all over that blank sheet of paper—or that blank white wall? Now you can recapture those artistic impulses of your youth—minus the mess—with the help of your home computer and a PC painting program.





Even more experienced artists who use traditional tools—watercolors, pastels, oils or acrylics—can watch their creations come to life on-screen.

"If you're a painter, software lets you work through concepts quickly and make decisions faster," explains Laurence Cartel, an instructor at the School of Visual Arts in New York who creates computer-generated art. "It helps you create things you could never do on a sketchpad or canvas."

But you don't have to be a celebrated artist to "paint" on screen: Most of the programs reviewed below are designed with such easy-to-understand tutorials that most adults, and even older kids, have little difficulty learning the basics. They typically feature palettes with icons representing artist's tools, such as brushes, crayons, erasers, textures, patterns and, of course, colors. Paint software is capable of supporting up to 16.7 million colors, if your graphics card cooperates. (Check the manual that came with the card for information about graphics capabilities.)

Whatever your style, paint programs can help you develop a unique technique.

Your computer screen functions as your easel and canvas. To get your creative juices flowing, just click on an icon—say, chalk—select a color and start making your masterpiece. In many paint programs, your mouse is speed-sensitive; this means you can make thinner lines by moving the mouse rapidly and thicker lines by moving it quickly. (For greater control over your drawing or painting, you may prefer to use a graphics "tablet" and an electronic stylus, which simulates pen and paper, instead of a mouse. For more information about tablets, see page 284.)

If you plan to use your paint package to design newsletters or brochures as well as paintings, consider a program that incorporates clip art—electronic illustrations of everyday objects such as animals, people and flowers—or buy a separate clip art package. Also check out software packages of photographic images that can

by rob kelly

be used in conjunction with painting software. The tools in a paint program, such as an eraser or brush, let you change the shape or color of photos or otherwise alter them. Then you can import your creation into a desktop-publishing document, such as a newsletter or flier.

If you aspire to create something a bit more artsy—a portrait, landscape, still life or abstract, for instance—some programs let you imitate the masters by selecting brushstroke options that mimic an artist's style—Van Gogh's thick, swirling strokes or Georges Seurat's pointillism, for example.

Another treat: Most PC paint programs offer an art studio's worth of tools and supplies in one compact package for far less money than you'd spend on traditional art supplies. And, thanks to eraser tools and undo commands, you can correct your mistakes as easily as you made them.

There are about a dozen painting programs aimed primarily at adults (and many more just for kids) readily available in stores, most of which share a similar set of basic tools (paintbrush, pen, crayon), with 20 or more textures or patterns, and a generous assortment of colors. Some provide on-screen instructional features, and several drawing programs, intended primarily for use in business presentations, offer tips for creat-

Dabbler: No fishing around for tools.

The *electronic pen* is mightier than the *keyboard*

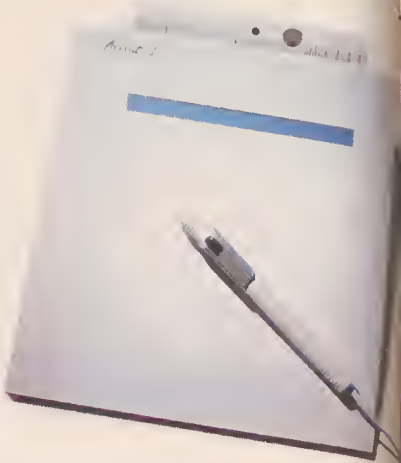
For folks who want to take their paint software to the limit as a hobby or career, there's a handful of affordable graphics "tablets" that make drawing on a computer screen easier and more fun. A tablet is typically paired with an electronic pen, or stylus, which simulates the feel of a paintbrush on a canvas or pencil on pad—a far cry from using a mouse to move a cursor around on your screen. For about $200 you can buy a tablet that will get you started with your drawing, and that also functions as a mouse when you need to pick items off an on-screen menu, for example.

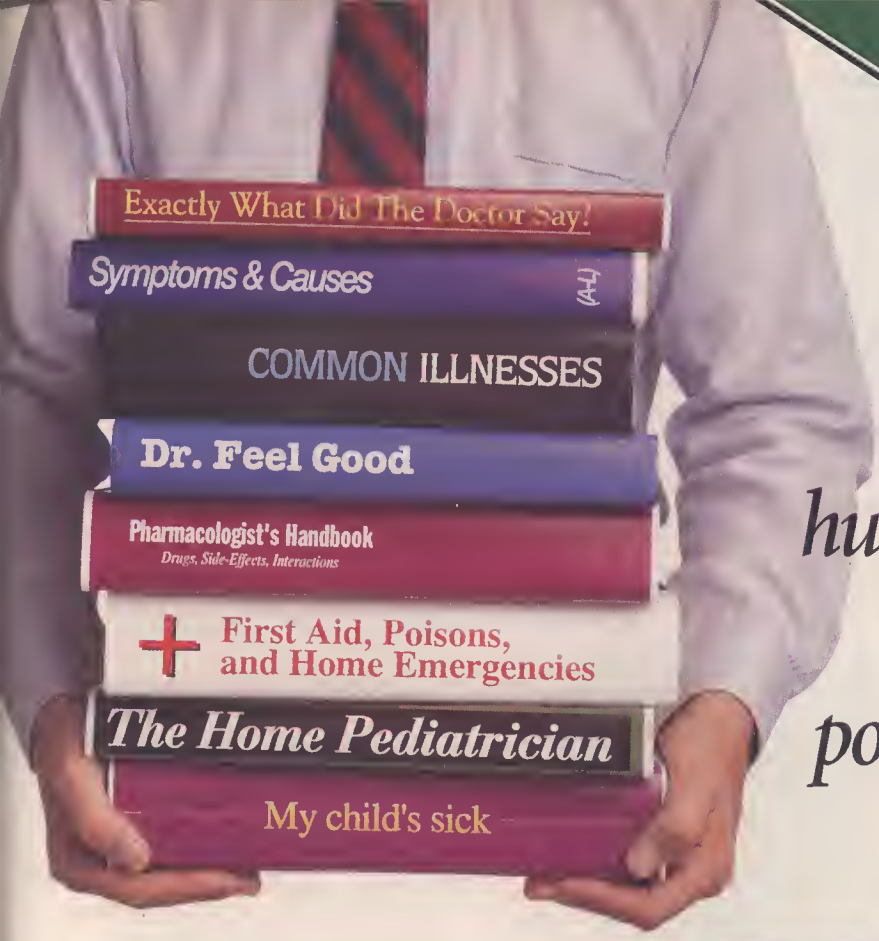
Tablets lie flat on your desktop. Some are pressure-sensitive: The harder you press down on the pen, for instance, the darker the line that appears on your screen. Using a tablet and an electronic pen also tends to save you money in the long run, because you don't have to keep replenishing art supplies.

The Acecat II from Acecad (800-676-4223, 408-655-1900) is among the least expensive tablets on the market ($129 for DOS and Windows, $149 for the Macintosh). It has a 5- x 5-inch drawing space, a tethered pen and an auto-install feature designed to walk you through the installation process.

A new pressure-sensitive tablet, ArtPad ($199 for Windows) from Wacom Technology (800-922-6613, 206-750-8882) provides a 4- x 5-inch drawing space and comes with a cordless, batteryless pen. Wacom says a Macintosh version, which also lists for $199, and a $239 package that includes painting software Dabbler for either the PC or the Mac, are on the way.

The Penmouse ($249 for Windows or the Macintosh) from Kurta (800-445-8782, 602-276-5533) also gives artists a 4- x 5-inch drawing area and comes equipped with a cordless pen. The only catch is that it's not pressure sensitive. Kurta's XGT is more expensive ($395 for Windows or the Macintosh), but it has a slightly larger 6- x 8-inch drawing area and it includes a cordless, pressure-sensitive pen. *—R.K.*





A Great Holiday Gift for the Whole Family.

Replace hunt-and-search with point-and-click.

Medical HouseCall™ Software—The Ultimate Home Medical Reference Resource.

Powerful home version of the medical software used in 62 medical schools and by over 2,000 practicing physicians.

Interactive software does what no book can — analyzes symptoms, presents list of possible causes, and cross-references with a click of the mouse.

Covers over 90% of most common conditions — 1,100 diseases, 394 poisons, 2,890 drugs, 515 tests, and over 6,000 medical findings.

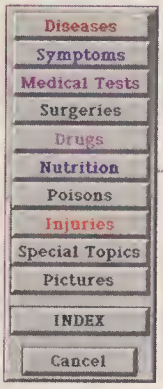
Tells you how serious a symptom is, and when to seek professional assistance.

Four resources in one — home medical reference, drug interaction and side-effects guide, family medical record keeper, and symptom analysis tool.

$89.95 *Special introductory price. Limited-time offer.*

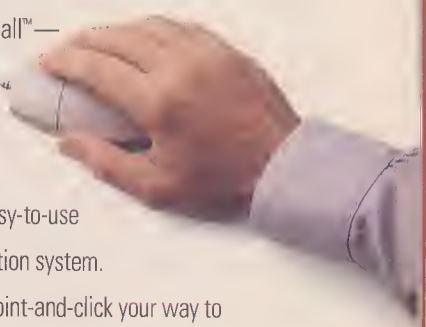
Call 1-800-863-4666, dept. A33.
Satisfaction guaranteed or money back.

Available for both Windows™ and Macintosh®



Vast medical information is always at your fingertips.

Introducing Medical HouseCall™— the ultimate home medical reference resource. Now, instead of wading through volumes of medical books, try Medical HouseCall™— the software that turns your computer into a personalized, easy-to-use medical information system.

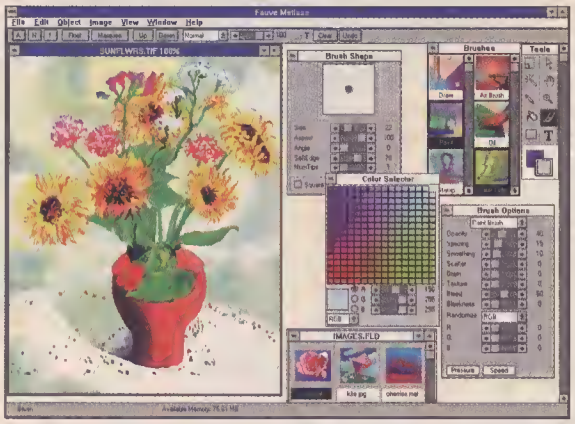


With it, you'll point-and-click your way to exactly what you're looking for. Get straightforward explanations of what the doctor really said.

Check out the alternatives, relative costs, and appropriateness of tests, surgeries, and treatments. Be instantly prepared for emergencies.

So, put the books down for good. Get Medical HouseCall software today.

Medical HouseCall™ software is to be used for informational purposes only. It cannot provide a diagnosis for any particular individual and should not be used as a substitute for seeking professional medical treatment and care. All trademarks are properties of their holders. ©1994 Applied Medical Informatics, 2681 Parleys Way, Suite 101, Salt Lake City, UT 84109 Phone: (801) 464-6200.



Fauve Matisse's sizing options let creativity bloom.

ing slide shows and related projects. Several programs add more unusual features, such as painting or drawing instructions and suggestions about how to stage a slide show. We picked five of the leading painting programs to review here—all have very useful features that are both easy and fun to use. The programs cost between $50 and $150, no more than you'd have to invest in more traditional art supplies.

Dabbler

Whether you just want to dabble with paints or get serious about learning to draw, it's easy to lose track of time once you step into this program's atelier. Your computer screen becomes an artist's desk—and a neat one, at that. Most of the screen space serves as your sketchbook, but four small "drawers" sit at the top to hold your tools. Each drawer is easily opened with the click of the mouse and is clearly labeled—colors, artist's tools, textures and extras. Dabbler lets you choose your tools and then close the drawers so you have plenty of room to play. Most paint programs, by contrast, float their tool palettes on screen, which tends to infringe on your workspace.

The program stimulates creativity by putting in your hands many of the features found in more expensive programs, such as different paper grains, so you can produce pencil drawings with textured lines. The program also offers two special paintbrushes that let you see your creations in Seurat's and Van Gogh's styles.

If you want to brush up on your own technique, Dabbler can help you learn to draw, too. The program includes 14 tutorials, both on-screen and on paper, from Walter Foster, publisher of dozens of how-to books on painting and drawing.

One drawback to Dabbler, which runs on both PCs running Windows and the Macintosh, is that only one page in your sketchbook can be open at a time.

Fauve Matisse

If you're after a more extensive set of painting tools and effects than Dabbler offers, Fauve Matisse deserves a look. Like Dabbler, it's got brushes that copy the styles of famous painters, including a Cubist brush for budding Pablo Picassos. In addition to painting tools, Fauve Matisse lets you play with drawing tools to create circles, boxes and polygons.

Once you've created an image, Fauve Matisse provides more flexibility for tweaking it than Dabbler does. A Floating Objects feature, for instance, lets you isolate any portion of your picture and resize or distort it. Fauve Matisse offers 31 filters to change characteristics such as contrast, brightness and focus; make your image look starkly black and white or slightly blurred, for example. The program also lets you store clip art and the images you've created in on-screen folders—all self-portraits, for example, can be stored in a folder called, simply, "Me." These folders appear as screen icons, so they're easily located and opened when you're ready to don your virtual artist's smock.

SuperPaint

For Macintosh users with an artistic flair, SuperPaint is a best buy. A Copy Brush tool, typically found only in more expensive programs, lets you select an image—say, the Mona Lisa—and paint a copy of it using a paintbrush with a sponge effect or other techniques. There's also an eraser tool that lets you easily delete all or part of an image you've created.

In addition, the program provides shapes, text and templates to give you a head start in creating functional documents such as fax cover sheets and thank you cards. Unlike the other programs mentioned here, SuperPaint and Dabbler don't incorporate any clip art,

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the painting software mentioned in this article.

CorelDraw 3
Corel Systems, (800) 772-6735, (613) 728-8200
$149 (Windows CD-ROM)
$199 (Windows)

Dabbler
Fractal Design, (800) 297-2665, (800) 647-7443
$99 (Windows, Macintosh)

Fauve Matisse
Fauve Software, (800) 895-2787, (919) 350-9933
$99 (Windows)

NeoPaint
NeoSoft, (800) 545-1392, (503) 389-5489
$45 (DOS)

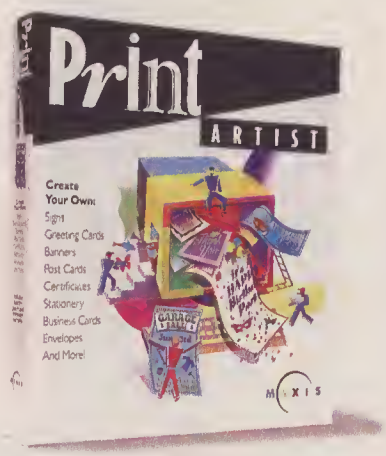
SuperPaint
Aldus, (800) 888-6293, (619) 558-6000
$49.99 (Macintosh)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

BLAH
BLAH
BLAH

It's not what you say.

It's how you say it.



Print Artist. The cure for the blahs.

The fast, fun way to make your own signs, greeting cards, banners, stationery, business cards, envelopes, certificates & more.

MAXIS

For DOS, Windows and Windows CD-ROM. © 1994 Sim-Business. All rights reserved. Maxis is a registered trademark of Sim-Business. Print Artist is a trademark of The Pixellite Group. To order, contact a retailer or call **1-800-33-MAXIS.**

but you can buy clip art separately and import it into the programs.

NeoPaint

If you have a PC, say a 286 or faster model that runs only DOS (not Windows) programs, take heart; you can create plenty of computer art with NeoPaint. This software package features a wide range of painting tools, including various brush sizes and shapes, erasers, even tools that let you draw circles, rectangles and polygons. It resembles a Windows paint program, right down to its comprehensive tool bars at the top and left side of the screen.

NeoPaint has a built-in screen-capture program, which lets you take an electronic picture of the art on your screen so you can copy it into another document, such as a business report or school paper you or your kids are creating with word processing software. The program comes with more than 100 clip-art images, but falls short in its variety of colors: You get a palette of 256 colors, maximum.

One nice thing about NeoPaint: it won't cost you anything to try it. You can simply download the shareware program from the America Online, CompuServe or Genie on-line services. If you like it, send $45 to the manufacturer, NeoSoft, to become a registered user.

Eye NeoPaint for free before you buy it.

CorelDraw 3

Perennial best-seller CorelDraw 3 is intended mainly as a business graphics package, but it includes a PhotoPaint module that incorporates paint tools; it also lets you develop and present slide shows on your PC.

The program has two attractive time-saving features: It lets you preview the effect of a change in color or texture on an image without actually making the change; it also lets you search for and replace one color with another.

CorelDraw provides a whopping 14,000 clip-art images. The only catch is that it requires a lot of memory (RAM). While it will work with 4 MB of RAM, 16 MB of RAM is recommended.

For a relatively small investment, any of these paint programs can turn your PC into a virtual artist's studio—and perhaps help uncover some hidden talents you thought had gone the way of your crayon creations on the wall. •

Once you start using Weekend Home Projects CD-ROM, you'll never look at home improvement projects the same way again. Weekend Home Projects covers 12 different categories of home projects with smart advice, step-by-step instructions, extensive video demonstrations and one-of-a-kind features. It's more than just an incredible home improvement how-to guide. It's the one tool every homeowner needs. *Windows & Macintosh. See your favorite software retailer or call IVI Publishing at (800)432-1332, Dept.204.*

© 1994 IVI Publishing Inc. All rights reserved. Windows is a registered mark of Microsoft Corporation. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer Inc. Hometime is a registered trademark of Hometime Video Publishing Inc.

EXPLORE WEBSTER'S INTERACTIVE

THE WORLD'S EASIEST TO USE ENCYCLOPEDIA

Presenting the 1995 edition of the renowned Webster's Interactive Encyclopedia.

Instead of complex menus, buttons and commands, it presents you with familiar 3-D objects that follow you on every screen.

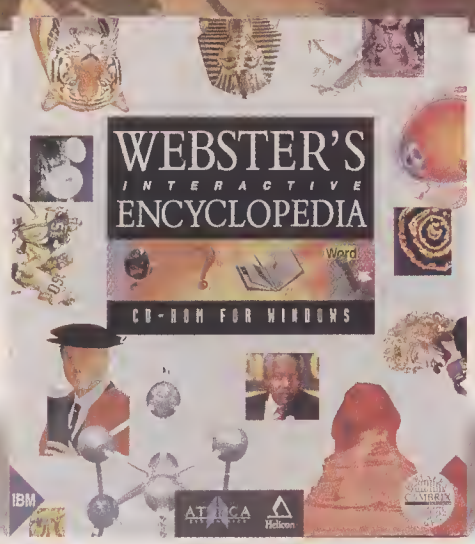
Each one is a powerful research tool.

To discover what they can do, just point. To put them to work, click.

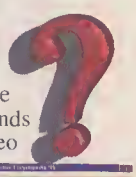
It's that simple.

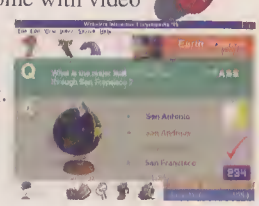
With Webster's, it's never been easier to explore your world, and all that's in it.

Select the hourglass for the *Timeline*, a captivating display of key world events — starting from 4 million BC.



Test your worldly knowledge with the *Quiz*, where thousands of questions (some with video clips or sound tracks) provide unlimited fun — and learning.



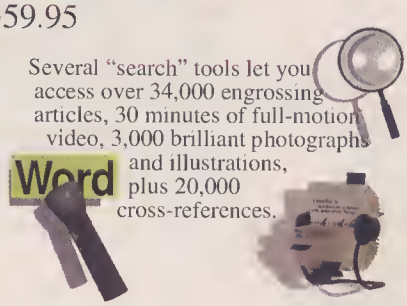


Using the *Topics* tool, you can see what's available on subjects like History, Nature, Science, Technology, Popular Culture, Business and plenty more.

The globe brings up a World Atlas with three levels of zoom. Click on areas or cities, and access related articles, video clips and other aids.

Suggested Retail $59.95

Several "search" tools let you access over 34,000 engrossing articles, 30 minutes of full-motion video, 3,000 brilliant photographs and illustrations, plus 20,000 cross-references.

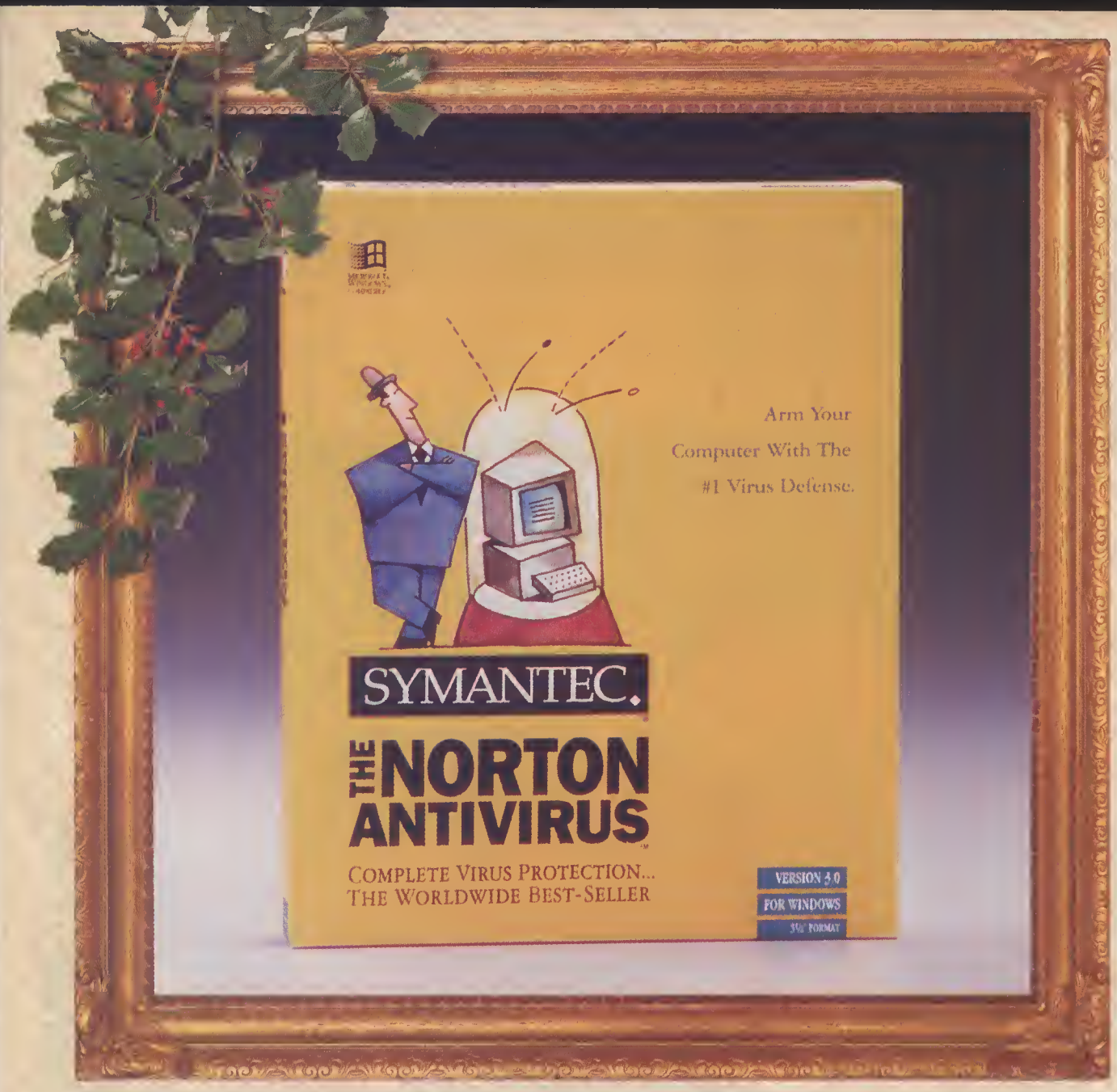


Insight

To order direct call 800-535-1517 today.

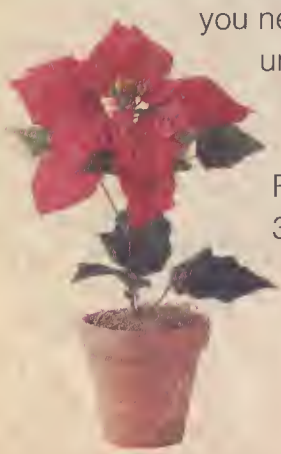
CAMBRIX PUBLISHING

Exclusively licensed and distributed by Cambrix Publishing
6269 Variel Ave., Suite B, Woodland Hills, CA 91367 (818) 992-8484



Complete Virus Protection

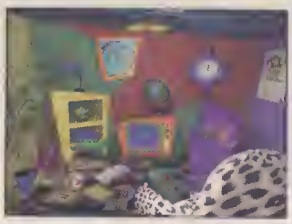
The Norton AntiVirus® provides the best defense against viruses on your PC. If you are accessing on-line services, sharing files over a network or swapping floppies, you need The Norton AntiVirus. It automatically protects against any known or unknown virus, repairs infected files, and best of all, it works unobtrusively in the background, assuring you complete, easy-to-use virus protection.



Purchase The Norton AntiVirus before January 31, 1995, and get up to 30 minutes of free phone calls. See package for details.
From Symantec Corp. Item #080SY

To order call 1-800-522-1771

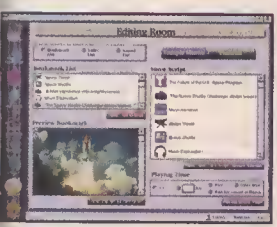
Mary found this Playroom an eye-catching way to explore the multimedia content.



The new 1995 Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia™ is having an amazing effect on people.

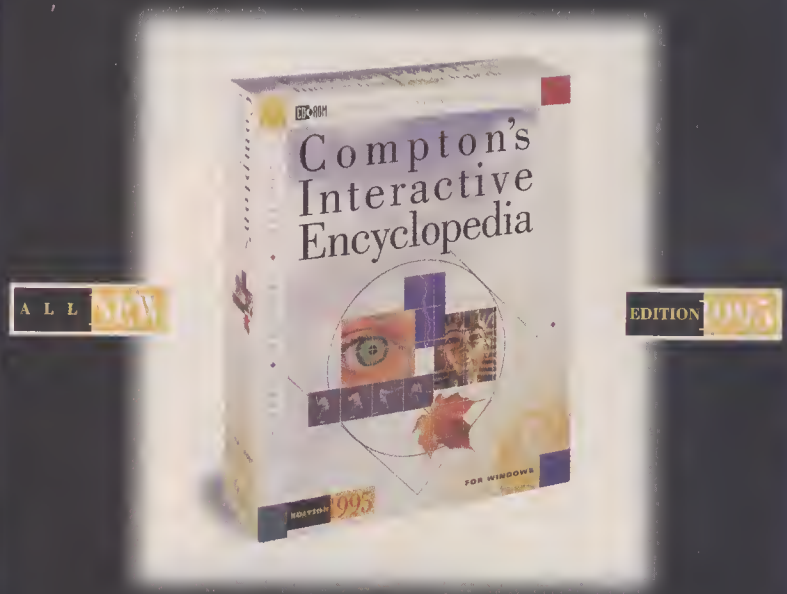
After expanding minds for over 70 years, we thought it was time to work on some other parts. So, with the help of the famous face and voice of Patrick Stewart, our 1995 edition brings you more things to see, hear, do and experience than any encyclopedia anyone's ever published.

You'll find more of everything in here, including more high-quality information from one of the world's best selling encyclopedias and 16 hours of multimedia...more than any other encyclopedia. The new Compton's. See what effect it has on you.



Michael discovered that anyone could become president some day. That really blows his mind.

Jessica practically talked Sam's ears off about making her own multimedia show with the *Editing Room*.



We used to just put this in writing.

On CD-ROM for Windows™, Macintosh® and Sega CD™.

COMPTON'S NEWMEDIA
A Tribune New Media Company

Sam was all ears as he heard about history being made in South Africa.

©1994 Compton's NewMedia, Inc., 2320 Camino Vida Roble, Carlsbad, CA 92009
800/862-2206. Outside of U.S. and Canada FAX 619/929-2628.

Take Your Kids To The "Boovies"

Once upon a time, the realm of family entertainment was dominated by books. In time, however, the kingdom was overrun by movies and video games that mixed exciting imagery, storytelling and even interaction. It wasn't long before the books were abandoned, left alone to collect dust, their pages growing old and yellow.

Then, something magical happened. Sound Source introduced *Interactive MovieBooks*™ – CD-ROMs based on hit family films.

MovieBooks proved that books *could* be as enthralling as video games. They played movies and sounds and animations. They helped kids learn to read. They had really cool puzzles. And, of course, they were completely interactive.

Before long, children were calling them "boovies." The marketing types were hooked. The movie studio execs liked the name too. Parents didn't care what they were called. Their children were reading again, and everyone lived happily ever after.

Readers assemble jigsaw puzzle screens by answering reading comprehension questions at the end of each chapter!

Many "hot" buttons animate when clicked, accompanied by 3-D sound!

Film strip buttons trigger movie clips, and display a preview of the scene.

This page displays a scene from the movie – many are full-motion video clips!

A "Read To Me" button provides narration while highlighted text follows along.

A "book mark" feature allows readers to mark their progress in the MovieBook.

Available at fine CD-ROM retailers everywhere ...

or call Sound Source Interactive at (800) 877-4778

The Secret Garden™ and Black Beauty™ are based on the Warner Bros. Films

Lassie™ is based on the Paramount Release

WARNER BROS. FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT
A TIME WARNER ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

SOUND SOURCE INTERACTIVE

QSOUND

indeo
INTEL VIDEO TECHNOLOGY

THE SECRET GARDEN and BLACK BEAUTY, characters, names, and all related indicia are trademarks of Warner Bros. A Time Warner Entertainment Company L.P. ©1994. LASSIE TM and © 1994 Palladium Limited Partnership. The trademark "LASSIE" is registered to Palladium Limited Partnership in the United States Patent and Trademark Office and in other countries. All rights reserved.
INTERACTIVE MOVIEBOOK is a trademark of Sound Source Interactive. WINDOWS is a trademark of Microsoft Corp. QSOUND is a trademark of QSound Labs, Inc. INDEO and the INDEO logo are trademarks of Intel Corp.

financial adviser

TAKING CARE OF HOUSEHOLD BUSINESS

No home inventory? You don't know what you're missing

by jo-ann johnston

When wildfires came close enough to threaten Philip and Caley MacDonald's Southern California home late last year, the family sped away ahead of the flames; nearly everything they owned stayed behind. For all the uncertainty, Philip could count on at least one thing: A floppy disk he carried with him held a detailed listing, completed that very evening with Quicken Companion, of the family's possessions. This inventory could help the MacDonalds quickly get money from their insurance company in case they needed to replace the house and everything in it.

As it turned out, the MacDonalds were lucky. The fire missed their home, and they didn't have to use the hastily prepared inventory. But Philip is glad he has it. "I feel better about calamities now," he jokes.

An approaching fire is an extreme incentive to take stock of your possessions, but what if you don't have advance warning from TV news reports as the MacDonalds did? Burglars, for example, won't be making any appointments before they break in and clean you out. Clearly, the best time to make a detailed inventory is when you *don't* need it.

A thorough record of your possessions "makes it easier for a claim to be settled," says Loretta Worters of the Insurance Information Institute in New York. Big-ticket items, such as stereos and cars, and the little things you take for granted, such as pots and pans, all belong on your list. Record each item's name, a description, the purchase price or value, the date of purchase, the serial number and warranty terms.

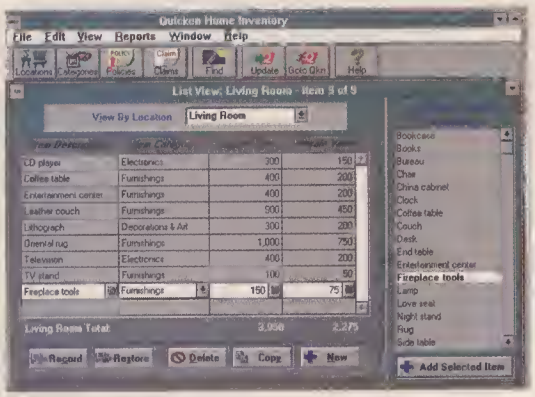
There are a number of software packages that can help you prepare such an inventory. Unlike most popular personal finance programs, the new Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows includes a home-inventory feature. The information you record there dovetails nicely with the rest of your financial records. For example, Quicken Deluxe 4 takes account of your home-inventory records in your personal financial profile to present a more complete picture of what you own vs. what you owe.

Quicken arranges the inventory according to the rooms of the house; in the living room you'll list items such as a coffee table and entertainment center. Each item also fits into a category, such as furnishings or electronics. Quicken prompts you to estimate replacement cost and resale value based on purchase price, suggests furnishings you may have overlooked by listing items commonly found in particular rooms and double checks that you've accounted for everything.

You can search for information by room or category—if thieves walk off with your PC, TVs, VCRs and diamonds, for example, you can scan your records for the electronics and jewelry contents of the entire house.

The program can even help you estimate where you stand with your insurance company before a disaster strikes. If you key in the parameters of your insurance policy, you can quickly look at your coverage and your possessions to determine whether your policy of-

Illustration by Russ Willms



Quicken furnishes you with a room inventory.

fers you sufficient protection.

Database programs tend to be more complicated than other software, but they make it easier to manage home inventory. One of the simpler databases to use is the one in Microsoft Works. This database includes a home-inventory module. The program's "wizards" feature walks you through the creation of any kind of form, offering you a list of suggested modifications you can consider as you go along. You can give each item in your house its own on-screen data sheet, which may include its name and description, serial number, year of purchase, location and so on. Or you can consolidate items that go together—such as your kitchen chairs—on a single sheet.

If you're a home-business owner, you may already use a more powerful database such as FileMaker Pro, Access or Approach. These products are easily adapted to a household inventory—Microsoft's Access, like Works, uses a wizard feature. Approach offers a home-inventory template you can customize or use as is. FileMaker Pro users can add on a separate template, such as Home Management System, for household inventory.

If you prefer to design your own home inventory, database programs let you plan one from scratch, tinkering with different ways of ordering and displaying data so that you can sort through the information in the most convenient manner. Like

Tracking *home improvements:* a change for the better

When you're assembling a home inventory, don't forget to record home improvement expenses, too. Doing so will help establish your losses if, say, a storm destroys your landscaping. You're probably eligible to recover only about $500 to $1,000 on this kind of damage under a typical homeowners' policy, according to the Insurance Information Institute, but without adequate documentation it may take longer to get reimbursed for even this amount.

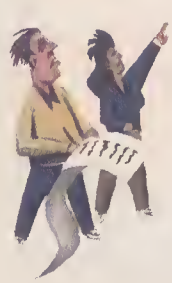
Records of your improvements to the property come in handy should you decide to sell it. Detailed records can help justify a higher negotiating price and may decrease your tax liability. For example, if you sell your home and buy a new one for less money, or you choose to rent instead, your gain is considered taxable by the Internal Revenue Service. Obviously, you want to keep that taxable gain as small as possible. One way to do so is to keep accurate records of major improvements to the property; these costs legitimately reduce your gain.

Anything that adds to the life of your home or increases its value is considered a legitimate improvement, according to accounting firm Price Waterhouse. So, don't stop at tracking landscaping and adding new rooms; you want to be able to demonstrate the costs of a replacement furnace, central air conditioning, outdoor lighting, driveway paving, alarms and so on.

All the major personal finance packages help you record your home improvements. You track them as "heightened values" in the real-estate asset accounts you set up in Quicken, Managing Your Money for DOS, Windows or the Mac ($79.95 from MECA Software, 800-820-7457) or Microsoft Money for Windows ($69.95, 800-426-9400).

Kiplinger's Simply Money for Windows ($39.95 from Computer Associates, 800-773-5445) includes a Record Improvements template under the mortgage accounts feature. WealthBuilder for DOS or the Mac ($49.95 from Reality Technologies, 800-346-2024) lets you list the home as an investment and track improvements under an investment account.

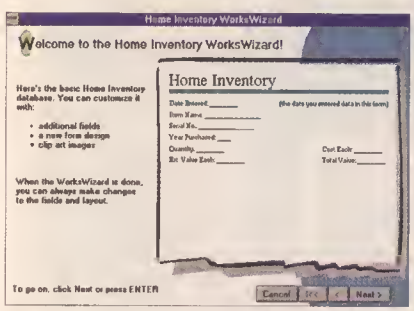
Apart from enjoying the improvements themselves, recording the details may be the best evidence that the months of living with dirt, dust and rubble was worth the effort. —*J.J.*



Quicken, databases let you search for an item according to the room or category you've assigned it (kitchen, rare books). Or you might search for items by value (say, anything worth more than $500).

Your computerized home inventory can also include pictures of your items; photos may prove especially helpful when you present an insurance claim. With a scanner, you can store images of your belongings on your computer's hard drive. Or you can store photographs of your belongings on a Kodak Photo CD disk (for more information on this format, see "Photo CD Opportunities" in the November issue of *HomePC*), which can be viewed with a multisession Photo CD-compatible CD-ROM drive. You'll also need graphics software, such as PhotoMagic or Kodak PhotoEdge, to view the images.

If you maintain your home inventory in a powerful database such as Access or Approach, you can tie in photos using Object Linking and Embedding (OLE). With OLE, you'll typically select the image you want in your graphics software and copy it to the Clipboard. Then click on the spot

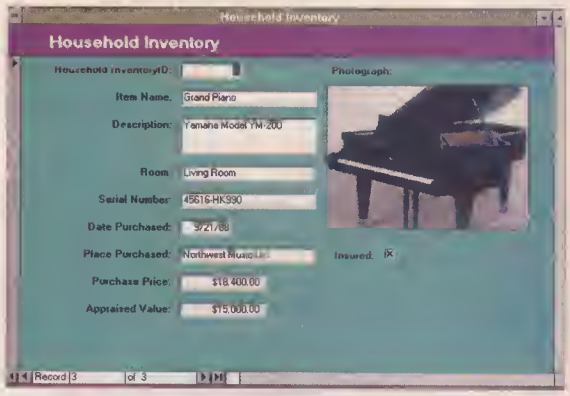


'Wizards' make your Works easier.

where you want the image to appear in your home inventory and select the Paste Special option from the Edit menu. The program will copy or embed the picture at the appropriate place and give you image editing options if you click on it. A picture of your sofa, for example, will appear in a field you create for photos in the sofa listing. Sometimes you can simply paste images you have copied to the graphics application's Clipboard into your inventory; choose Paste from the database's Edit menu. With this method, you won't have special editing options.

It's imperative that you make copies of your home-inventory list and keep them in a safe place. If your house burns down, the ashes of your meticulous records do you no good. Back up your records to a floppy disk, tape drive or removable-cartridge drive (see "Backup! Backup! Backup!" in the November issue of *HomePC*). Store a copy of the records in a fireproof safe, give one to someone you trust or put one in a locked cabinet at work or a safe-deposit box.

You'll need to update your inventory from time to time. Every time you make a major purchase—such as home-office equipment—record the details right away.



Imported graphics give you a room with a view.

What better time is there than the start of a new year to take stock of what matters to you? If you ever suffer a catastrophe, it's one resolution that could guarantee a fresh new start. •

Jo-Ann Johnston is a personal finance and business writer based in Turners Falls, Mass.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on software for recording home inventory mentioned in this article.

Access
Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080
$339 (Windows)

Approach
Lotus, (800) 343-5414, (617) 577-8500
$495 ($129 through January '95; Windows)

FileMaker Pro
Claris, (800) 325-2747, (408) 727-8227
$99 (Macintosh)
$129 (Windows)

Home Management System
Learnware, (714) 840-6690
$29.95 (Windows, Macintosh)

Kodak PhotoEdge
Eastman Kodak, (800) 235-6325
$139 (Windows, Macintosh)

PhotoMagic
Micrografx, (800) 733-3729, (214) 234-1769
$149 (Windows)

Quicken Deluxe 4 for Windows
Intuit, (800) 624-8742, (415) 322-0573
$59.99 (Windows)

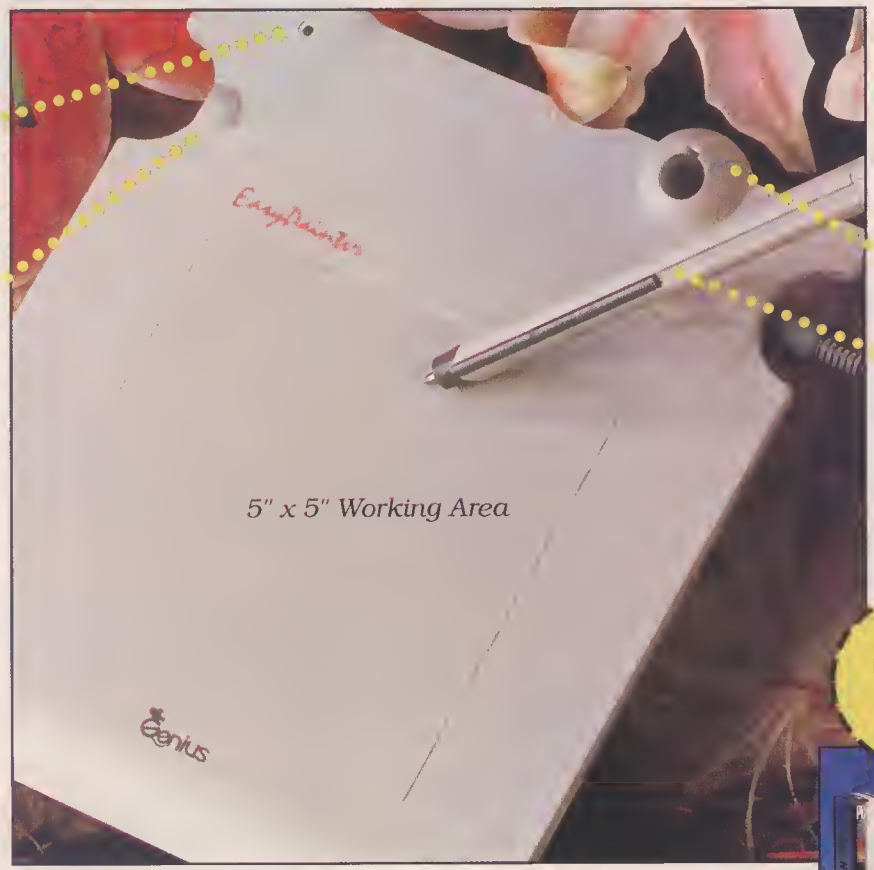
Works
Microsoft, (800) 426-9400, (206) 882-8080
$99 (Windows, Macintosh)

Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

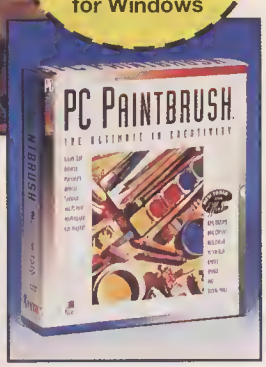
Come See Us at COMDEX Fall 94 / Booth # S2873

Estimated Retail Price $ 109.99

Turn Your PC into An ART STUDIO with Genius EasyPainter



FREE Paint Software included PC Paintbrush for Windows



EasyPainter from Genius is the best input device that performs better than a Mouse or Trackball, it's your personal 5" x 5" Drawing Pad. EasyPainter is superior for painting, tracing pictures and free-hand drawing. With EasyPainter, you can improve applications in both Windows and DOS. Add creativity to your PC productivity by enhancing visual aids, business presentations, school projects or simply-just doodle more imaginatively on your computer. For more information or for a dealer near you, call **1-800-456-7593**

MICROSOFT WINDOWS COMPATIBLE

AVAILABLE AT:

- *PC Zone*
- *Insight Corp.*
- *Tiger Direct*

COMPUTER City SUPERCENTER

Look for Your $ 10 OFF COUPON on Genius EasyPainter package

offer expires 12/ 31/ 94

KYE International Corp • 2605 E Cedar St • Ontario • CA • 91761 • USA

1994 KYE International Corp. All products and brand names mentioned are registered trademarks of their respective companies.

working at home

TOOLS FOR GETTING THE JOB DONE

Even if a word processor isn't your type, files get along

Paula Ingram, a 44-year-old newcomer to the PC, spent a productive hour at the computer after her "Introduction to DOS" class working on a calendar for a monthly newsletter. Paula made plans to finish the project the following evening using her friend Catherine's computer. But when she arrived and realized Catherine uses Word for Windows, Paula froze.

"I almost panicked," Paula recalls. "I'd typed the entire calendar using WordPerfect for DOS, and I assumed that Word for Windows wouldn't handle my WordPerfect document. My deadline was a few days away, and my next computer-class wasn't scheduled for a week. I pictured myself retyping all my work in Word."

But before Paula's anxiety could get out of hand, Catherine said the magic words: Word for Windows reads files from WordPerfect for DOS. In fact, Word for Windows would even store Paula's calendar in its original WordPerfect format, so she could work with it at future classroom sessions.

Paula's mini-crisis probably sounds familiar to many people who work at home. PCs, Macs and the programs they run aren't quite one big happy family—at least not yet. But the good news is that nowadays many are at least on speaking terms. If you operate a home business, bring office work home or volunteer to do charity or club projects on your home computer, you'll probably run into a software or hardware compatibility hurdle sooner or later. But with a little planning, swapping files between software packages, even between PCs and Macs, need not cause alarm.

Word processors are frequently the culprits when compatibility jitters strike—almost every home computer has one, and there's no telling which program anyone uses because there are so many popular choices. The best news is that you may not need to look any further than your own software to solve a potential compatibility problem. The top-selling Windows word processing packages—Ami Pro, Word for Windows and WordPerfect for Windows—are equipped to handle other programs' special (or proprietary) file formats, sometimes including programs for DOS or the Mac. Recent versions of popular Macintosh word processors, including Word for Macintosh and MacWrite, can swap each other's files and are well-versed in certain DOS or Windows file formats. (If you're swapping files between PCs and Macs, however, you'll also need special translation utility software.) Some word processors will even accept files from once-popular programs that have faded into obscurity.

Typically, in the dialog box that pops up after you select File at the top of your screen and choose Open from the menu, you can tell the word processor to list all files regardless of format, or files in a specific format, rather than files saved in the program's own format.

Here's a quick look at some of the ways the leading word processors work together:

- Ami Pro 3.1 works with Windows documents created by Word, WordPerfect and Windows Write, as well as files from a number of DOS-based word processors, including Profession-

by david d. busch

Illustration by Robert DeMichiell

alWrite, WordStar and XyWrite.

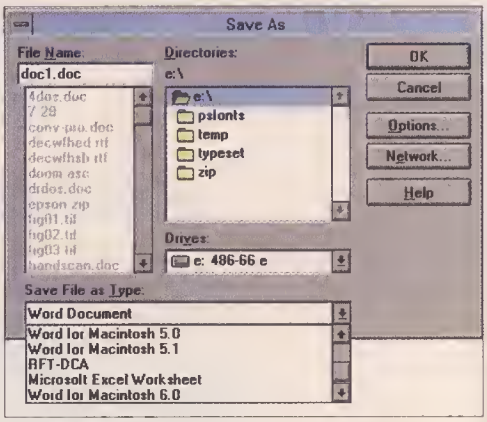
• WordPerfect for Windows 6.0 works with Ami Pro, Word for Windows and all the DOS programs mentioned above.

• Word for Windows 6.0 supports considerably fewer formats than its Windows counterparts. It handles recent DOS and Macintosh versions of Word, WordPerfect for DOS and Windows, and a few other word processors. Microsoft, the manufacturer of Word for Windows, supplies free converter programs for other formats, but you have to call the company (800-426-9400) to request them.

• Word for Macintosh works with files from Word for DOS and Windows, MacWrite and DOS versions of WordPerfect.

File translators in these word processors typically let you retain simple formatting, such as paragraphs, italics, boldface and—sometimes—margins. That's fine if all you want to do is edit text or make new entries at another computer. Fancier formatting such as columns, footnotes and fonts often are lost, but you'll occasionally be surprised at what makes the leap. For example, if you're using recent versions of Word and WordPerfect, fonts survive a file exchange, as do justifications, styles and mail merge information.

But because word processors have different features, or implement similar features in different ways, some changes in your documents are inevitable after a transfer. For example, most headers and footers move from WordPerfect for DOS to Word for Windows without a hitch, but parallel columns are formatted as tables.



Windows on the Word: a translation menu.

On *PIMs and needles* about transferring your data? *Relax!*

Personal information managers (PIMs) are especially handy when you work at home (see "Organizing Your Life" in the September issue of *HomePC*). The software organizes addresses, calendars and to-do lists; flags you about appointments and deadlines; and generates reports to organize your hourly billing. But say your home business is growing, your PIM is straining to track your customers and schedules, and you need new software. Or, say you want access to all the names in a colleague's extensive client database, but you use a different PIM. In either case, you'll need to transfer data between PIMs.

The good news is that you probably won't have to retype all those names, addresses and phone numbers. There are several ways to move data between PIMs. You can always export and import PIM data as plain ASCII text. When you export a file, you're saving it in a format another program can understand and accept. Using plain ASCII files may wipe out special formatting or notes, however, so expect to spend some time getting data in shape after the transfer.

Better yet, see if the PIMs transfer and accept files in a dBASE-compatible format. This helps ensure the information will appear in the appropriate fields, such as address or phone number. Several PIMs support dBASE-compatible files, including Act for Windows ($279 from Symantec, 800-365-0606), the Windows-based Commence ($395 from Jensen-Jones, 908-530-4666) and Lotus Organizer for Windows ($99 from Lotus Development, 800-635-6887).

In some cases, you'll be able to transfer data to your PIM without any extra steps. For example, a special utility in Polaris Advantage for Windows ($149 from Polaris Software, 800-722-5728) allows it to accept Lotus Organizer files. CrossTies for Windows ($149 from CrossTies, 800-955-8437) is compatible with Act, Commence, the Windows-based Ecco Simplicity and Ecco Professional ($99 and $279, respectively, from Arabesque Software, 800-457-4243), Lotus Organizer, and Polaris PackRat for Windows ($395 from Polaris). *—D.B.*

sports illustrated for kids
computer bulletin board
business/finance news
fodor's worldview
sports perspective
consumer reports
eaasy sabre
ESPNET™
internet
software guide
CNBC markets
macintosh column
sound clips & photos
national geographic
fantasy football
real-time chat
movie guide
pc previews
computer basics
multimedia column
sports illustrated for kids
smartkids™ quiz
online banking
e-mail
new on video
encyclopedia
weather
downloads
sesame street™
market quotes
baseball manager
computer news & info
computer bulletin board

If PRODIGY® members seem to know more, maybe it's because they do.

(To join them, call 1-800-PRODIGY, ext. 255 and get 10 hours free.)

Get 10 free hours of PRODIGY today!

☐ Yes! I want the free PRODIGY® software, the free trial month and the ten free hours of PRODIGY.

Name _____ 32655/7713

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Signature _____ Phone Number (____) _____

Or Call 1-800-PRODIGY, ext. 255

Please send me software in the following format: (please check only one).

☐ Dos 3.5 ☐ Windows™ 3.5
☐ Dos 5.25 ☐ Macintosh® 3.5

PRODIGY® Service

Get plugged in. Get 10 hours free.

With PRODIGY you stay informed, so you stay ahead. From the latest news and sports to computer tips and a regularly updated encyclopedia, PRODIGY keeps you plugged into a world that never stops moving.

And PRODIGY not only lets you stay in touch, it lets you participate. If there's a news story that's got you steamed, hop on a Bulletin Board and let America know what's on your mind. Make your own airline reservations or play GUTS®, our highly addictive trivia game. Send an E-mail to an old friend or a new business prospect. With PRODIGY, your imagination's your limit.

To receive 10 hours free, call 1-800-PRODIGY, ext. 255 today.

To find out for yourself what all the excitement is about, just give us a call. We'll send you the free software, and give you a free trial month of membership with 10 free hours of PRODIGY during your first month.* After your free trial, continue to enjoy PRODIGY at our new low price of only $9.95 a month.

So get on the phone and we'll get you online. To receive your free software, call us at 1-800-PRODIGY, ext. 255, or send in the coupon.

PRODIGY® Service

*Usage beyond the triel offer will result in extra fees. Some features may be charged for seperetely. Limited time offer subject to chenge. Credit card may be required. Phone charges may epply. PRODIGY is a registered trademerk and service merk of Prodigy Services Company. © 1994 Prodigy Services Company.

sports illustrated for kids
computer bulletin board
business/finance news
multimedia column
sports perspective
consumer reports
encyclopedia
ESPNET™
download
online banking
CNBC markets
macintosh column
computer news & info
national geographic
baseball manager
real-time chat
movie guide
previews
computer basics
fodor's worldview
sports illustrated for kids
sesame street™
software guide
e-mail
new on video
eaasy sabre
weather
internet
market quotes
fantasy football
smartkids™ quiz
sound clips & photos
computer bulletin board

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST-CLASS MAIL/PERMIT NO. 98/JOHNSON CITY, TN

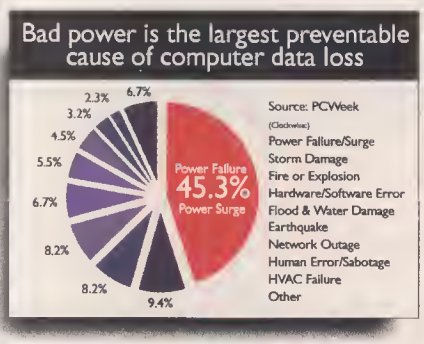
POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

PRODIGY® Service
PO BOX 8667
GRAY TN 37615-9967

This holiday, give the gift of safe computing...

Just don't have the time for power problems on your PC? Don't worry. They'll always make the time for you.

The question is not if a power problem will occur, but when. Whether due to household appliances, local construction, poor wiring, bad weather or even other office equipment, power problems are as inevitable as death and taxes.



APC Uninterruptible Power Supplies provide instant battery backup to protect your data from loss and your hard drive from damage. Units are backed by up to $25,000 in surge protection insurance, so you can rest easy and stay productive even during the worst storm.

In the next three months, more than 30,000,000 PCs will be hit by power problems...

In fact, one study discovered a typical PC is hit over 100 times a month, causing keyboard lockups, hard drive damage, and worse. And a study by Bell Labs, found that undervoltages and blackouts represent more than 85% of power problems likely to hit your computer, a fact which leaves standard surge suppressors powerless to protect you.

More than 2,000,000 satisfied APC users won't...

That's why you need instantaneous battery backup power from an APC Uninterruptible Power Supply to prevent keyboard lockups, data loss, hard disk crashes, and hardware damage. It's even been said that there are three types of PC users: those who have lost data due to a power problem, those who are going to, and the more than 2,000,000 satisfied users who have protected themselves against the inevitable surge, blackout or brownout with the most reliable UPS they can buy... APC.

$25,000 worth of peace of mind starting at just $119...

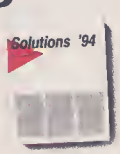
Not only can APC protect your data. We can protect the investment you've made in your hardware as well, whether it be 386 or 486, Pentium or PowerMac. In fact, surge protection performance is even backed by up to a $25,000 Lifetime Equipment Protection Repair/Replacement Guarantee.

Ask for APC at your computer reseller today, or call for a free handbook. Starting at just $119, an APC UPS is serious protection no serious computer user should be without.

PC World Top 20 Upgrade

"Don't take chances...get the ultimate protection... from APC."--*PCWorld*

FREE 50-pg. PC protection guide



What are the causes and effects of power problems? The most common power protection mistakes? Fax for your free handbook today! Please reference Dept SS.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

Brand of UPS used: _____

Number of PCs/Servers to be protected: _____

800-800-4APC

401-788-2797 fax

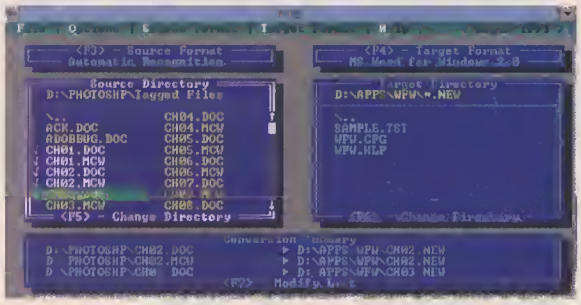
PowerFax Info (800)347-FAXX

APC™

AMERICAN POWER CONVERSION

A publicly-traded company (NASDAQ: APCC)

Copyright 1994, APC. Trademarks are the property of their owners.



Word for Word converts numerous files in minutes.

In complex documents, you're likely to have to do a lot of tweaking to preserve formats.

To minimize your reformatting, check to see if both word processors support Microsoft's Rich Text Format (RTF). RTF can preserve many formatting attributes when you trade files, either on the same kind of computer or between a PC and a Mac. (Don't confuse RTF with RFT or RFT/DCA, which you may come across in some word processors; it's not the same thing.) In a file exchange between two programs that support RTF, you'll probably find that virtually all your formatting—even columns—is preserved.

'Word for Word' translation

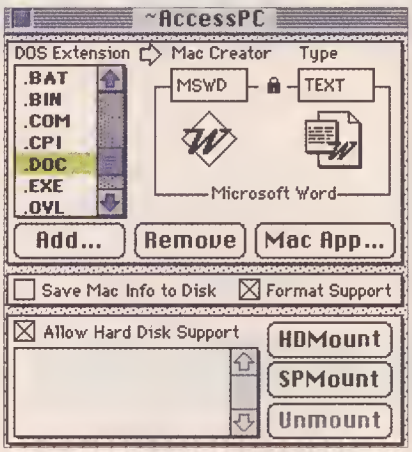
You can also buy a separate program to translate files. Norm Jennings, a 55-year-old real estate broker in Kent, Ohio, discovered to his horror that he couldn't easily load his massive collection of lengthy lease agreements, prepared using ancient WordStar 2000, into his new Word for Windows program. Word for Windows supports RTF but WordStar 2000 doesn't. He could have saved all those files as ASCII text (ASCII is a "universal" coding system for letters, numbers and other characters), but doing so would have erased all his formatting. Retyping hundreds of five- or six-page documents into Word for Windows was out of the question.

Then, Norm discovered Word for Word, a program that translates files for dozens of common and obscure PC and Macintosh word processing formats. A handy feature let him convert, all at once, the lease documents to the Word for Windows format in minutes. Word for Word's Automatic Recognition feature even determines the format of your original document if you're dealing with a word processing file of unknown origin. It can also identify documents from programs that have had several incarnations. It can tell you, for example, if a file is from MultiMate 3.3, MultiMate 4 or MultiMate Advantage I.

Conversions Plus is another program that translates nearly all formatting from one word processor's file type—no matter how uncommon or outdated—to another. Of course, neither Conversions Plus nor Word for Word can maintain a formatting choice if it's not available in the target program's file type. Say, for example, that your original document includes hidden text, but the format you're converting to does not—your annotations will be converted into ordinary, visible text.

Both Word for Word and Conversions Plus can handle spreadsheet and database formats. For example, you can use them to bring WordPerfect mail merge data into a format suitable for a Microsoft Access database.

PC-to-Mac file exchanges get a little trickier. It's all well and good that your office copy of Word for the Mac saves your work to a floppy disk in Word for Windows format for use on your PC at home. And it's nice that your daughter can save the assignment she began on your Windows PC as a Macintosh Word document and work on it at the school's computer. After all, if you must exchange files between Macs



Mac utilities know what's up in DOS.

shopper's guide

Here's how to get more information on the file compatibility software mentioned in this article.

AccessPC
Insignia Solutions, (800) 848-7677, (415) 694-7600
$79 (Macintosh)

Conversions Plus
DataViz, (800) 733-0030, (203) 268-0030
$169 (DOS, Windows)

DOS Mounter
Dayna Communications, (800) 531-0600, (801) 628-3475
$79 (Macintosh)

Mac-in-DOS
Pacific Microelectronics, (800) 628-3475, (415) 948-6296
$149.95 (DOS, Windows)

PC Exchange
Apple Computer, (800) 538-9696, (408) 996-1010
$79 (Macintosh)

Word for Word
Mastersoft, (800) 624-6107, (602) 948-4888
$149 (DOS, Windows)

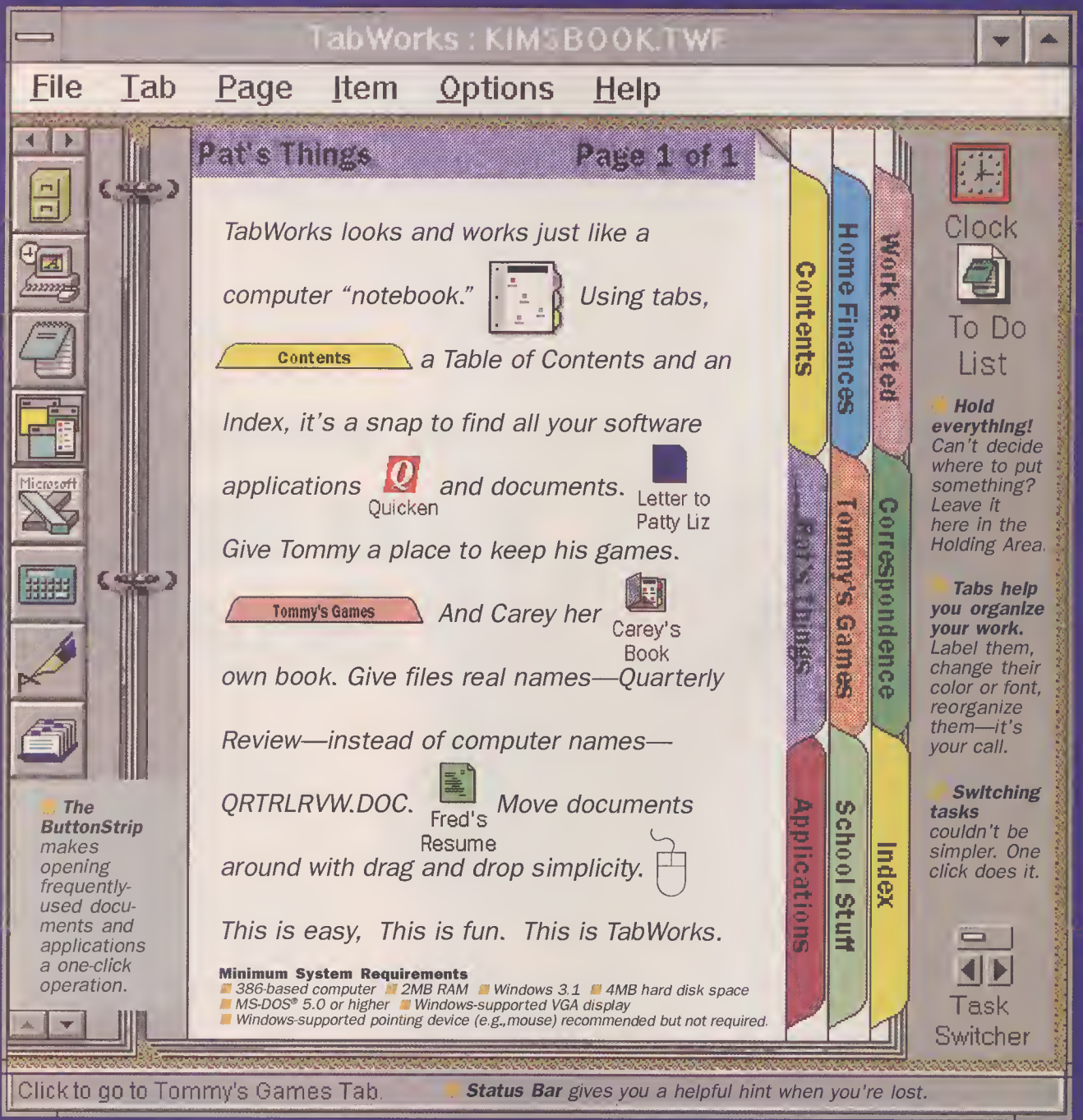
Note: Before you buy any software, check your computer owner's manual to determine operating system, microprocessor, memory and disk space. Then read the software box or consult a salesperson to be sure your computer and the program are compatible. All prices are suggested or estimated retail.

The Intuitive Way to Manage Applications and Documents

XEROX

TabWorks from XSoft

Now using your computer is as easy as opening a book



Ask for it at COMPUSA

or call 1-800-428-2995 x1007 to order.

Also available on PCs from Compaq.

XSoft
A DIVISION OF XEROX

Only $49

1. The Latest From Borland & Lotus.
1-2-3: Rel. 5, Freelance Graphics 2.1, AmiPro 3.1, Quattro Pro 5.0 for Windows, Paradox 5.0 for Windows and more.

2. Games Galore!
From Battle Chess to PinBall for Windows and everything in between!

3. Exciting New Educational Software.
For both your kids AND you. Reading programs, language programs, even a program to help manage your career.

4. Hot Multimedia & Graphics Programs.
Multimedia Video Clips, 7th Guest, Hell Cab, Renderize Live, Visual Images, lots more.

5. New Demos From Microsoft.
Bookshelf, Encarta, Publisher, Works for Windows and more.

6. Over $250 Worth of Software FREE!
Our gift to you...if you call 1-800-788-8055 today!

The New Way To Buy Software:

See 'em. Feel 'em. Try 'em. Then Buy 'em!

Use 60 Complete Programs Right Now!

Imagine 60 of the hottest programs on your computer. New Multimedia software. Graphics programs. Games. Educational software. The latest in personal productivity boosters and much, much more.

Imagine pitting the top programs from big manufacturers like Lotus, Borland and WordPerfect against each other in a head-to-head shoot-out.

We've hand picked some of the hottest software out there. And some up-n-comer's you never knew existed!

And imagine exploring the latest breakthroughs from little-known (but not for long) manufacturers before anyone else.

Stop imagining. There are over 60 full (not demos) programs on this one CD-ROM.

And you can test, torture, and put all of them through their paces right on your own computer. Plus, you'll have complete product information and demos for 140 additional programs at your fingertips.

The cost? Just $9.95.

Which Ones Will Meet Your Standards?

Compare each program's features. Rate performance. Examine all the bells and whistles. At 2:00 in the afternoon. Or 2:00 in the a.m.

See which games are really the coolest. Which graphics programs are the easiest to use. And what multimedia software you feel is definitely a "must-have".

Instant Electronic Delivery. No Waiting!

If you want to purchase a program, simply call the toll-free number. It's just like ordering from a catalog...except you'll be given an unlock code...and you can use your new software as often as you like right away!

Plus, the complete retail package with disks and manual will arrive at your home or office in just a few days.

BONUS: Over $250 of FREE Software!

Plus, order your TestDrive CD-ROM now and we'll include over $250 worth of programs FREE. They're yours to keep as our present to you just for trying us out.

Call 1-800-788-8055 now!

TestDrive SUPER STORE CD-ROM
TAKE IT FOR A SPIN

System Requirements: Windows 3.1, DOS 5, 6, or 6.2, CD-RDM drive, 4MB of System RAM, 10MB free disk space.

TestDrive Corporation's encryption and decryption technologies are Patent Pending. All products and trademarks listed herein are the property of their respective owners. Contact TestDrive Corporation, 2933 Bunker Hill Lane, Santa Clara, CA 95054.

CODE: HPC12/94

and PCs, using the same software application on both machines helps eliminate potential compatibility problems. But that's not all you'll need to do to bridge the gap between these two kinds of computers.

Macs' DOS-si-do

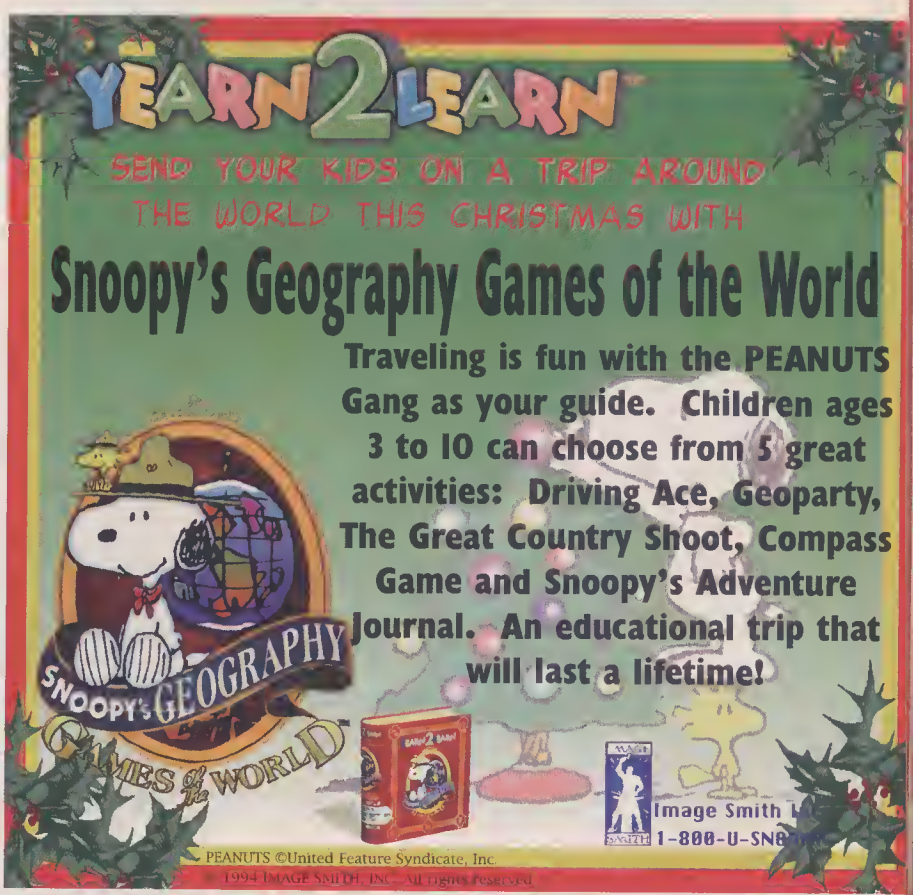
Greg Rice, 38, is a writer-photographer who travels the Midwest researching articles for clients of Creative Communications Services, a public relations agency in Carlsbad, Calif. "I always lug along an IBM PC-compatible laptop on my trips to transcribe notes and get an early start on my articles," Greg says. He transfers the files to the Macintosh IIsi in his Cloverdale, Ind., home office using a Mac utility called AccessPC. This software allows a Mac to read 1.44-megabyte (MB), 3½-inch PC disks. (Macs won't accept 5¼-inch disks.)

PC Exchange and DOS Mounter are Macintosh utilities that, like AccessPC, you can install as part of the Mac's system software to allow it to read PC disks. PC Exchange is also built into the Mac's new System 7.5 operating system.

If you need to use your Mac files from home on a PC at the office, for example, you can do it easily if the Mac has AccessPC, PC Exchange, DOS Mounter or System 7.5: Simply insert a DOS-formatted 1.44-MB disk into the Mac and copy the files. Or, if your Mac doesn't have these utilities, check out two programs for PCs, Mac-in-DOS and the previously mentioned Conversions Plus. Both let PCs read 1.44-MB Mac disks, but the process is a little more complicated. Unlike the Mac utilities, which fold into the operating system, you must load the DOS and Windows versions of these programs or switch to them every time you want to read a Mac disk.

Exchanging information among programs and platforms is still not always as easy or as effortless as you'd like it to be, but you needn't feel trapped in the Tower of Babel, either. Harmony is a word more and more software programs can process quite well. •

David D. Busch, author of 48 computer books, has worked exclusively from a home office since 1974.



"Wow, I Could've Had a V.34!"

Introducing the True V.34 28,800 bps Sportster Modem from U.S. Robotics.

Before you buy any other modem, check out the new Sportster V.34 from U.S. Robotics; the fastest, most reliable data/fax modem available today. Because the Sportster V.34 operates at an incredible 28,800 bps, it saves you phone and on-line time charges. And because the Sportster utilizes true ITU-T V.34 standard protocol, it's fully downward compatible with 14,400 bps and Rockwell V.FC™ modems.

Sportster V.34 is more than just fast, it's twice as fast as most modems sold today. Setup is simple. It's highly intuitive. And it comes complete with over $300 worth of free introductory offers for on-line services, plus menu-driven QuickLink II® data and fax software. Like its predecessors, the Sportster V.34 is affordable, too -- just $329 suggested list price.

Call 1-800-845-0908 and ask about the Sportster true V.34 today. You simply can't buy a faster modem.

1-800-845-0908

USRobotics®

The Intelligent Choice in Data Communications

U.S. Robotics, Sportster and the USRobotics logo are registered trademarks of U.S. Robotics, Inc. QuickLink II FAX® is a registered trademark of Smith Micro Software, Inc.

on-line connections

EXPLORING THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY

Shopping at home: one modem line, no waiting

Michael Martin has always liked shopping, but these days, he finds it more fun than ever because he's doing it on-line from his home computer. "It's great," says Martin, a screenwriter in Virginia Beach, Va. He's already purchased a stereo and camera equipment using his modem and computer; now, he's browsing the electronic malls for furniture and a big-screen TV. "It's easy and it's convenient," he says. "And you can get some of the best deals around."

Thanks to the ever-expanding number of on-line shopping services, the things that Martin likes best—simplicity, convenience and savings—are getting better all the time. These days, it's possible to buy thousands of items at your computer, from a classic Brooks Brothers button-down to a major appliance from Sears. Mass marketers such as J.C. Penney and Hammacher Schlemmer and mail-order mainstays like Lands' End, Patagonia and Spiegel are hitching a ride on the information highway. And if you get hungry while you shop, you might even be able to order dinner—Pizza Hut recently began testing an on-line ordering service on the Internet in Santa Cruz, Calif. (just send e-mail to *http://www.pizzahut.com* to order a piping hot pie) and is watching the service closely. "This could be the next big step in the pizza delivery business," says Jon Payne, director of development for Pizza Hut.

And, perhaps, in the retail business overall. Right now, electronic shopping accounts for only a small fraction of on-line activity (market researchers estimate that about 15 percent of on-line subscribers shop by modem). But experts say that, just as mail-order catalogs and, more recently, television shopping networks have surged in popularity, on-line shopping is becoming a viable option for more consumers.

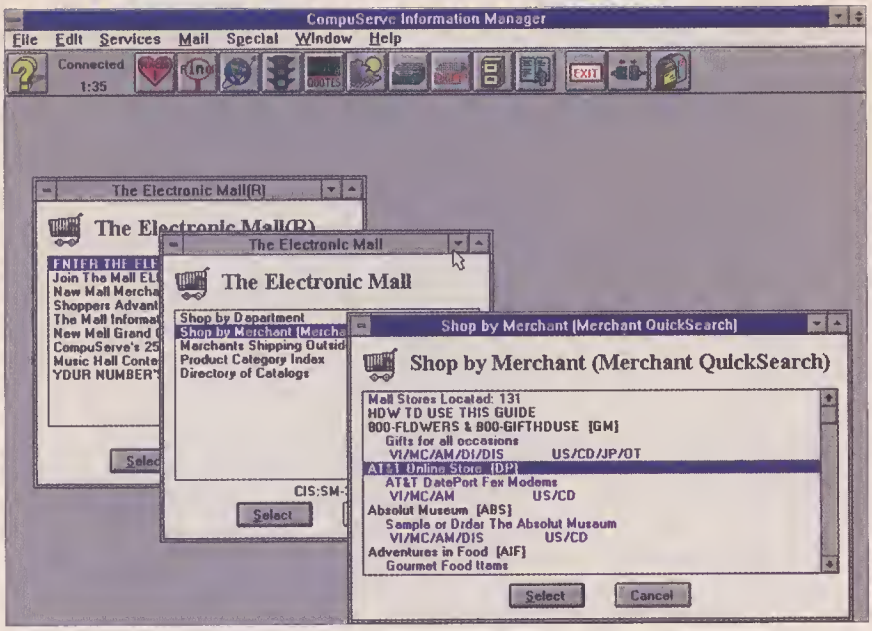
For busy people, on-line shopping offers distinct advantages over the mall. "People today value ease and convenience, and on-line shopping can offer them that," says Bob Allen, a partner at Modern Media, an interactive-advertising agency in Norwalk, Conn., that monitors electronic purchasing. For instance, you can place an order 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And, of course, it's a valuable tool for elderly and homebound users who might not always be able to make a trip to the store.

Several recent studies show that Americans are growing disenchanted with traditional retail stores. Fear of crime and concerns about personal safety keep a growing number of shoppers away from suburban malls and urban retail areas. And consumers are increasingly frustrated by the quality of service. In a survey commissioned by MasterCard International, for example, 62 percent of respondents said they've gone into a store intending to buy a specific item, only to leave empty-handed because sales clerks weren't available to assist them.

Certainly, purchasing items on-line is easier than trudging through crowds, and anyone

by mary hickey

Illustration by Robert Kopecky



Window shopping: CompuServe's mall houses more than 120 'stores.'

who's tried to open a mailbox crammed with unwanted catalogs might agree that it beats mail-order shopping, too.

"Once you get the hang of using the menu, it's much easier than filling out an order form and trying to remember to mail it," says Cheryl Rooks Hunter, a hospital administrator in Dallas who often orders panty hose from L'eggs on CompuServe. "Using the on-line service, I know it's in the mail as soon as I [click] OK."

"I've used PC Flowers on Prodigy," says Adam Viener, who runs his own small on-line service from his home in York, Va. "It's a very quick, convenient way to purchase flowers without hassles. And I don't have to worry about them getting the card wrong, because *I* type in the message myself."

Who'll be the first on-line?

Other users have less tangible reasons for shopping on-line; they just like being on the cutting edge of technology. "It's no easier than calling an 800 number and giving information to the person at the other end of the line," says Fred Strasser, of Montclair, N.J., who has purchased clothes from Lands' End on Prodigy. But, he adds, "There's a certain novelty to it. It makes you feel really computer literate."

"I used an on-line service to order music CDs for a friend [after he] mentioned that he was unable to find a certain disc," says Stewart Schneider, an attorney in Ashland, Ky. "I swaggered to the computer, punched up the service and had his tunes delivered to his door. Bragging privileges on that one continue to this day."

The process is remarkably simple. Just scan the electronic shopping spots, choose your item, key in ordering information—size, color, shipping address—supply credit-card information and presto, the product is on its way. Some services make ordering even easier. CompuServe, for example, offers a feature called Shoppers Profile, which lets members store their delivery address and credit information, which can be called up with one keystroke.

On-line shopping can also save you money. For starters, because they offer easy access to information that allows consumers to make educated buying decisions, on-line services make it easy to comparison shop. Users can chat on special-interest bulletin boards to learn about specific products from other shoppers, or they can read publications like *Consumer Reports* (available on CompuServe and Prodigy), then instantly shop for the product they've decided to buy.

The price is right

Prices for goods ordered on-line also occasionally beat those available from storefront retailers. Prodigy, for example, is scheduled to begin carrying an "outlet" store for the Home Shopping Network in December, where consumers will find products at lower-than-televised prices. And many services offer shopping clubs, such as Shoppers Advantage. "We don't keep any inventory, we have no salespeople and no advertising, so our overhead is low, and we pass the savings along to the consumers," says Sandra Morgan, a spokeswoman for CUC International, the club's parent company, in Norwalk, Conn. Shoppers Advantage, which offers more than 250,000 products from nearly 2,000 manufacturers, boasts discounts of up to 50 percent on brand-name items, plus a guarantee to beat competitors' prices and a free two-year warranty on most products. Membership costs $39 per year; a three-month trial membership is just $1.

AutoVantage (also owned by CUC) is an on-line auto club that offers members ($49 per year) consumer information about cars, as well as access to a national network of dealers who offer pre-negotiated discounts to members. You have to go to the dealership to make the purchase, but Auto-

Peddling petals: New consumer options in bloom.

Vantage simplifies matters by connecting you to the dealers in your area.

Let's go shopping

All of the major on-line services offer shopping services, although the extent to which they do so varies greatly. Here's a sample:

• America Online (800-827-6364). Subscribers can buy discounted office supplies through Penny Wise, flowers from the Flower Shop and music CDs and tapes from Bose Express Music (keyword: "Shopping."). Coming soon: Shopper's Express, which will let subscribers in select markets order groceries and drug store items 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

• CompuServe (800-COMPUSE). Clicking on the shopping cart icon in the opening screen brings you to the "Electronic Mall," where you'll find everything from fine art to professional-quality fitness equipment. More than 120 merchants offer general merchandise (J.C. Penney and Sears) and specialty items such as bedding (Dial-A-Mattress), beef (Omaha Steaks) and pet supplies (IAMS). Shoppers can contact a particular merchant directly, or browse by searching a product category.

• Delphi (800-695-4005). Look under "Shopping" in the main menu for such popular gift items as gourmet coffee from The Original Computer Coffee House and books from Read USA. "Internet Shopping" provides easy access to

Prodigy gives catalog houses and specialty shops another outlet to reach consumers.

Some modems will now *ring up* your groceries

Now in her eighth month of pregnancy, the last thing Rene Alm wants to do is push through the crowded aisles in her local grocery store in Lisle, Ill. So she does her weekly shopping the easy way—from home, using her PC.

"I just dial up the modem, and I can shop for everything I [normally] buy at the market," says Alm, a manager for a telecommunications company.

Alm is a subscriber to Peapod, a Chicago-area computer-based grocery shopping and delivery service. Peapod subscribers link into a database that lists some 18,000 items available at affiliated supermarkets, including Safeway and Jewel.

Shoppers can wander through the electronic aisles or locate a given item by typing in a brand name or product category. Special requests go in a comments section. "Say you want bananas," explains Derrick Milligan, Peapod's marketing director. "You type in '5 green,' or '5 ripe.' "

A Peapod employee receives the order, "shops" at a participating market and delivers the groceries to your home (you specify the time). Peapod even accepts coupons.

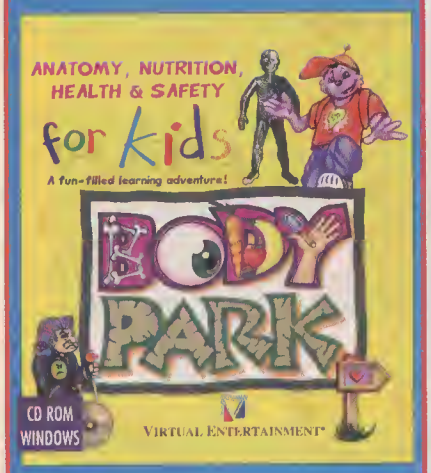
The service itself, however, is not cheap: Initial membership costs $69, with monthly dues of $4.95. Each delivery costs an additional $4.95 plus 5 percent of the total grocery bill. And that doesn't include the tip. But apparently, many people think it's money well spent. Peapod serves more than 5,000 homes in the Chicago area, and the company recently expanded into the San Francisco Bay area, where it has about 2,500 members.

Now, similar services are cropping up. America Online, for instance, will begin testing Shoppers Express, a grocery and drug store delivery service, in a few markets this month.

Is on-line grocery shopping the wave of the future? "People are always going to want to squeeze the melons," says Bob Allen, a partner at Modern Media, an interactive-advertising agency in Norwalk, Conn. But the service providers disagree. "We aren't only selling groceries, we're selling time," says Peapod's Milligan. "And for a lot of people, that's a very valuable commodity." —*M.H.*

Peapod, (800) 867-8989, (415) 929-1600.

BODY PARK™
REALearning™ on CD ROM



"This is exactly the kind of program I want my kids to use!"
— Paul Appleton, M.D., and parent of 6 year old Leah

HELPS TEACH YOUR CHILD THESE IMPORTANT TOPICS:

- ✔ How bodies work
- ✔ The importance of good nutrition
- ✔ General health and safety tips
- ✔ Reading skills
- ✔ Our 5 senses and how they work
- ✔ Creativity
- ✔ Problem solving
- ✔ Memory skills
- ✔ How we're all similar and different
- ✔ Self esteem & confidence
- ✔ About generations--"Family Tree"
- ✔ Shape and object recognition

Virtual Entertainment's REALearning series of interactive CD ROM products are designed to stimulate young minds. At Virtual Entertainment, we're commited to the creation of products with truly redeeming educational value, for one reason — kids are our future.

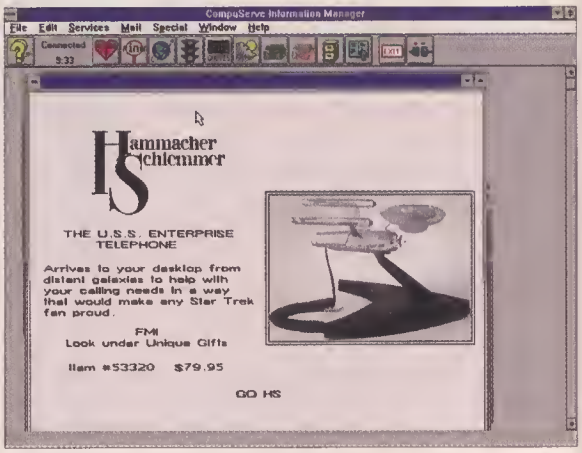
Now playing at a software dealer near you! For more information about Body Park and Virtual Entertainment's REALearningTM Series on CD ROM, please write: Virtual Entertainment, Inc. 200 Highland Avenue. Needham, MA 02194, or call (617) 449-7567

VIRTUAL ENTERTAINMENT INC. 200 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02194

more than 1,000 computer-related companies carried on the Internet Shopping Network (see "Internet," below).

• Genie (800-638-9636). An outside service runs the Genie Mall (accessible from the main menu), which is geared to computer-related products, books, music CDs and video games. But it's expanding into other areas: Long Distance Roses offers flowers, and Shoppers Advantage will be available soon.

• Prodigy (800-PRODIGY). Use the jumpword Shopping to reach the main shopping center. Major merchants include J.C. Penney, Lands' End and Musicland, but many smaller companies sell specialty items—Eye Mate, for example, sells contact lenses (you have to mail or fax your prescription, however—FDA regulations forbid it to be filed via e-mail). Subscribers can also access the "Gift Center," where they'll find ideas for presents for special occasions. The latest addition to the service is the tie-in with the Home Shopping Network.



Mass-market retailers are eagerly embracing the next generation of marketing possibilities.

• The Internet carries thousands of shopping options that go well beyond Pizza Hut. Many individual stores have e-mail addresses, like underwear company Joe Boxer *(Internet!joeboxerjboxer.com)*, and several "malls" bring other shops together under one electronic roof; to access "Downtown Anywhere," a collection of computer-related merchandisers, for example, type *http://www.awa.com/index/html*. Dealernet *(http://www.dealernet.com)* offers access to consumer information on automobiles, as well as auto insurance, car loans, car radios and security systems.

The Internet Shopping Network *(http://shop.internet.net)* currently offers members more than 20,000 computer products, but its recent acquisition by television's Home Shopping Network promises expansion into a general-interest marketplace over the coming months.

Sample the merchandise

To further entice consumers, several on-line services have recently introduced more sophisticated ways of presenting products. For example, many items are now accompanied by higher-quality graphics. "It's easier to sell people a sweater if you can show them exactly how it looks," says Leo Borden, director of merchandising for Prodigy. And soon, on-line services will add sound. "You'll be able to hear a sample of the music from a CD, or a soundtrack from a movie or videotape you're interested in buying," Borden says. Video won't be far behind.

Will the American landscape soon be dotted with abandoned shopping malls and boarded up department stores? That's unlikely. "Shopping is a sensory and social experience for a lot of people, and they don't get that aspect of it when shopping on-line," Bob Allen notes.

But the evidence suggests that consumers are ready for alternatives—and by the looks of things, on-line shopping is a popular choice. So turn on your computer, fire up your modem and take out your wallet; the cybermall is open for business. •

Mary Hickey is a senior editor at Ladies' Home Journal. *She did most of her holiday shopping on-line while researching this story.*

A Good Deal Never Sounded Better.

Comdex Fall
Booth # M7430

America's Number One Selling Computer Speakers

The most important feature of computer speakers is how great they sound. But if they're a great value, too, they sound even better.

Labtec outsells all the others combined for all the right reasons. Because model by model, they outperform other speakers in their price range. And they offer the largest selection, so you can always find a pair with exactly the features you want.

All for a price tag that fits into your budget as easily as they fit into your computer system.

Listen to Labtec's complete line of multimedia sound accessories, including headsets and microphones, at your favorite computer or electronics retailer today.

You'll hear why you don't even need to consider anything else.

Labtec

A Sound Investment in Your Computer.™

Get the Gift of Health every month of the year!

Keep your family fit and well with **HealthHelp®**, the ideal interactive PC software for a healthier lifestyle! Over 100 screens each month devoted to:

- ***Exercise and fitness***
- ***Educational features and games***
- ***Diet features and weight tracking features***

Enjoy the benefits of **HealthHelp** with family and friends. Written and produced by Doctors, educators and software experts. 12 issues of software for **only** $29.95+s/h.

A healthy use for your Family PC!

HealthHelp®

Call 1-800-522-6695

Visa-M/C (Requires DOS - 386 or higher)

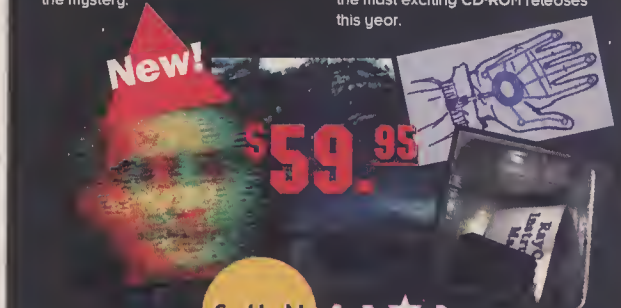
ARC OF DOOM

Alpho teom hos disoppeored ond Eorth is on the brink of ecologicol choos, Earthquokes, tidol waves ond volcanoes threoten life. Secret codes, garbled messoges ond o scientific dotobose are your clues to solving the mystery.

Merging topicol facts obout geology ond over 500 QuickTime movies, Arc of Doom offers the gameplay of an interoctive movie odventure. As a speciol secret agent you are transported to exotic locoles where you investigate the unnatural phenomena as well as tracing Alpho teom's last mission.

Like o reol agent, comb through the dotobase to discover how the nefarious forces of evil ore triggering naturol disasters.

Multiple game endings ond nonlineor game ploy moke this one of the most exciting CD-ROM releoses this yeor.



SUNSTAR

Windows + Mac compatible

Recommended for ages 10 yrs and up.

ORDER NOW!

(800)660-4480

Fax: 203/785-8001 • International: 203/785-8111

©1994 SunStar Publishing 277 Chapel Street, Suite 4A, New Haven, CT 06513 203/785-8111 Fax 203/785-8001
All trademarks or registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners. *Plus shipping and handling. System Requirements: Windows MPC compliant CD-ROM drive (150/sec transfer) and sound board, DOS 5.0 or higher, 386sx or faster and 4MB RAM.

Office-in-a-Box™

the gift that combines business with pleasure!

Perfect for the small or home office!

Office-in-a-Box™ transforms a PC and printer into a complete suite of office equipment!

- ***Copier*** *- reducing, enlarging and collating*
- ***Plain Paper Fax*** *- send from your PC or hardcopy*
- ***Document Image File Cabinet*** *- finds files instantly!*
- ***OCR*** *- no more re-typing!*
- ***Address Book*** *- dials the phone for you!*

Simple to install & use!

Includes: Full page scanner Twain Compatible, Grayscale (color available), ***Class 2 fax/data modem*** & ***E-Quip***™ ***software***

Small Businesses - have a powerful copier and plain paper fax at a fraction of the cost.

Moms and Dads - come home to your family and still get your work done.

College Students - win their first job - indispensible!!!

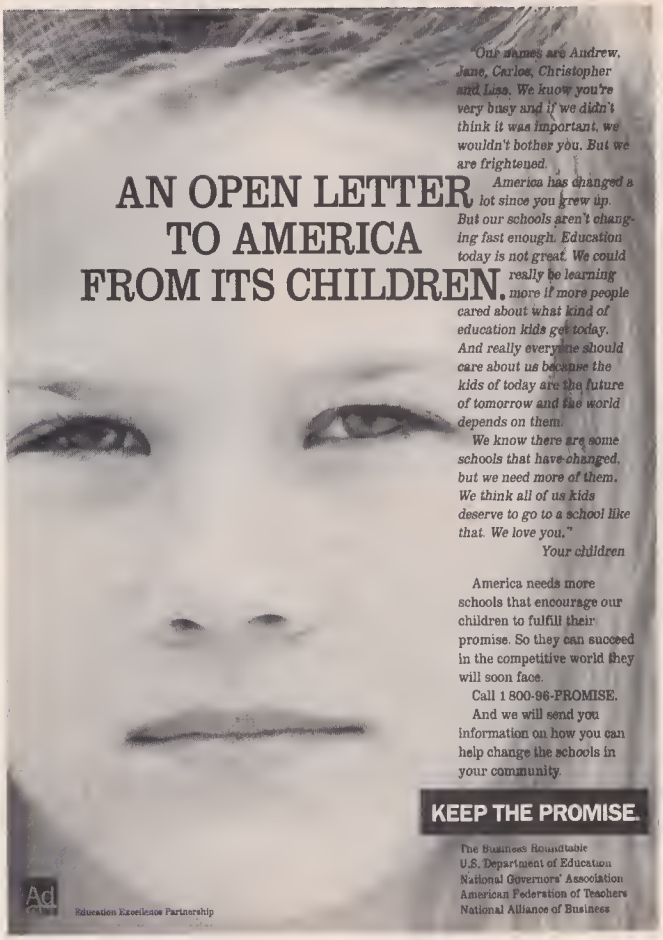
Retirees - it's easier to deal with insurance, investment, medical, and even family tree information.

At **CompUSA, Incredible Universe, Fry's Electronics, Elek-Tek, J&R Computer World**, and other major computer superstores or ***Call 1-800-ALACRITy for the store nearest you!***

Under $499!

Alacrity™

Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. All other trademarks are property of their respective corporations. Price subject to change without notice.



INVESTOR INFORMATION FROM T. ROWE PRICE

AN EASY WAY TO PLAN FOR RETIREMENT

The T. Rowe Price Retirement Planning Kit for PCs helps you calculate how much money you need for retirement and the amount you'll have to save each year to achieve this goal. Because the software does the "number crunching" for you, figures that may have taken hours to calculate appear on your screen in seconds. So you can spend less time working out the math and more time working on your investment strategy. This easy-to-install, timesaving software costs just $15.*

To order the *Retirement Planning Kit* for PCs, Call 1-800-541-5760

Invest With Confidence

T. Rowe Price

DISK024160

*CA residents add 7.25% sales tax, DC add 6%, MA and MD add 5%. Specifications: Any IBM® or IBM®-compatible PC with at least 512K RAM and DOS/MS-DOS 2.1 or higher (with CGA or CGA-compatible graphics card). If using DOS 4.01, 640K RAM required. Please allow four weeks for delivery. T. Rowe Price Investment Services, Inc., Distributor.

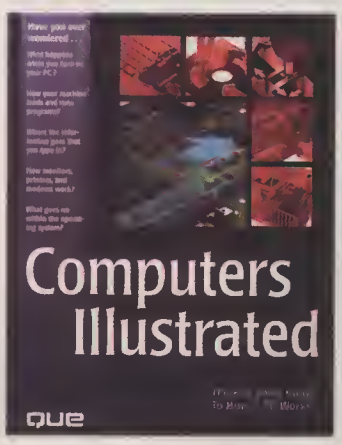
bookstore

WHAT'S NEW ON THE SHELF

PCs are easy, once you get the picture

Computers Illustrated—The Full-Color Guide to How It All Works
by Nat Gertler
Que, 1994
$24.99

Newcomers to computing who are struggling to understand the basics and overcome any lingering PC intimidation can count on *Computers Illustrated* to provide a comfortable, engaging source of information. It's a large, handsome book (check out the snappy cut-out cover), one of the first in Que's "Illustrated" series, which also covers topics such as software programming and upgrading PCs. Its colorful illustrations offer an up-close, personal look at a PC's inner workings. It provides clear, concise explanations of the motherboard, the central processing unit (CPU), read-only memory (RAM), disk drives and so on, all without overwhelming the reader.



"Computers are a lot like cars," writes author Nat Gertler in his introduction. "You don't have to understand that much about what's going on under the hood in order to drive a car to the supermarket. However, when it comes time to buy a car, or should something go wrong with it, it really pays to understand what the carburetor does." That pretty well sums up his approach to computers, showing and telling you about the parts you may need to repair or replace in the future.

Three introductory chapters—"What Is a Computer?" "What Can a Computer Do For Me?" and "Basic Computer Anatomy," precede 13 six- to eight-page "What Happens When..." chapters, which provide inside information about everything from mice and monitors to operating systems and local area networks. All are smartly illustrated, with short, descriptive text and arrows pointing to the appropriate parts of the pictures. (Credit for the book's design goes to Amy Peppler-Adams.)

"Facts" boxes on many pages offer additional information related to the subject at hand. For instance, the section on modems includes a box explaining that fax modems work the same way as standard modems but also transform your PC into a fax machine of sorts, enabling you to communicate directly from your PC to someone else's fax machine. New terms introduced in the Facts boxes are highlighted in red, indicating that you can find additional information about them in the glossary at the back of the book.

Computers Illustrated does have some faults, though they're relatively few and far between. Most of the missteps here are sins of omission rather than commission. In the discussion of DOS directories and subdirectories, for instance, there's no mention of the essential *path* command in DOS, or how to switch back and forth between directories.

If you've just hauled a Pentium multimedia PC home from your local computer superstore—or even if you've got an older PC but never got too far past the On button, this book will enable you to dazzle your friends, family, neighbors and business associates with your newfound knowledge of how PCs work. (Just don't try to impress anyone wearing horn-rimmed glasses and a pocket protector.)

Computers Illustrated is ideal for absolute newcomers, from 8 to 80. Consider it the equivalent of a child's *First Reader*. See Dick compute! See Jane compute! See Sally compute! Run, program, run!

by pam kane

Test patterns

Creating Stereograms on Your PC
by Dan Richardson
Waite Group Press, 1994
$26.95 including DOS-based disk

If you've ever found yourself staring into one of those 3-D posters, desperately trying to make out the image "hidden" in what appears to be an abstract design, you know how addictive these "stereograms" can become. If you can't spot the image within a few seconds you're compelled to keep trying until your eyes get bleary and your friends and family members have to drag you away...for your own good, of course. And if you can spot the image within some reasonable period of time, you're immediately hooked—suddenly you *must* discover the 3-D image in every stereogram this side of the Atlantic.

Creating Stereograms on Your PC has something for everyone with a DOS-based computer—

those who can spot the hidden images, and those who can't...yet. Of course, at first glance the book might make stereogram novices wonder why anyone would want to create graphics that look like, well, bad 1950s linoleum. But, like stereograms, the overall picture demands closer investigation; author Dan Richardson actually makes the idea rather appealing.

Seeing is believing

Sneak a peak at the glossy "Gallery of Stereo Illusion" (Chapter 4); if you can make out the 3-D images, consider yourself lucky—I couldn't do it until I read, in another chapter, that people with astigmatisms often can't perceive stereograms unless they're wearing corrective lenses. I felt much relieved when I put on my glasses and, after a few minutes, saw the pictures clear as day. Richardson is quite reassuring to those of us who have difficulty seeing the 3-D images right away: "It's important to be relaxed, comfortable, and above all, patient."

Once you've learned how to see the images, you're well on your way to designing them for use in homemade greeting cards, posters, gift wrap, stationery, even business cards. You don't need an MIT computing degree to do it—anyone with a basic understanding of computers and graphics can start churning out stereograms in short order.

After providing installation instructions for the disk that's included with the book, Richardson offers some fascinating information about the history of stereograms and their underlying visual principles. The back of the book includes a reference section that contains sources of related information, as well as a fairly extensive index. In between, the chapters cover the various kinds of stereograms. Unfortunately, there are a lot of semitechnical terms and acronyms to learn—if you start in the middle of the book you'll find yourself wondering what SIRTS (single-image random text stereograms) are, for instance. Take the time to read—

and read carefully—the introductory material before dabbling with the new program.

Ultimately, the results are sure to please. The best testimonial I can offer comes from my 17-year-old son, who usually doesn't get too jazzed up about computer programs: "This is the most fun I've ever had with a PC." •

While there have been space programs on CD-ROM before, there's never been anything quite like this. Next Step: Mars? makes learning fun because of its unique format—the information is presented in the form of an exciting adventure. And learning is reinforced with fascinating videos and educational activities. So if you want to travel to Mars, first pick up the one CD-ROM that tells you all about it. *See your favorite software retailer or call IVI Publishing at (800) 432-1332, Dept. 215.*

IVI PUBLISHING

© 1994, IVI Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. Windows is a registered mark of Microsoft Corporation. Macintosh is a registered trademark of Apple Computer Inc. QED New Media, a division of QED Communications, Inc.

MAKE THE RIGHT COMPUTER CONNECTION!

NetGuide

THE GUIDE TO ONLINE SERVICES AND THE INTERNET

DECEMBER 1994

GET ONLINE!

203 TIME- AND MONEY-SAVING REVIEWS

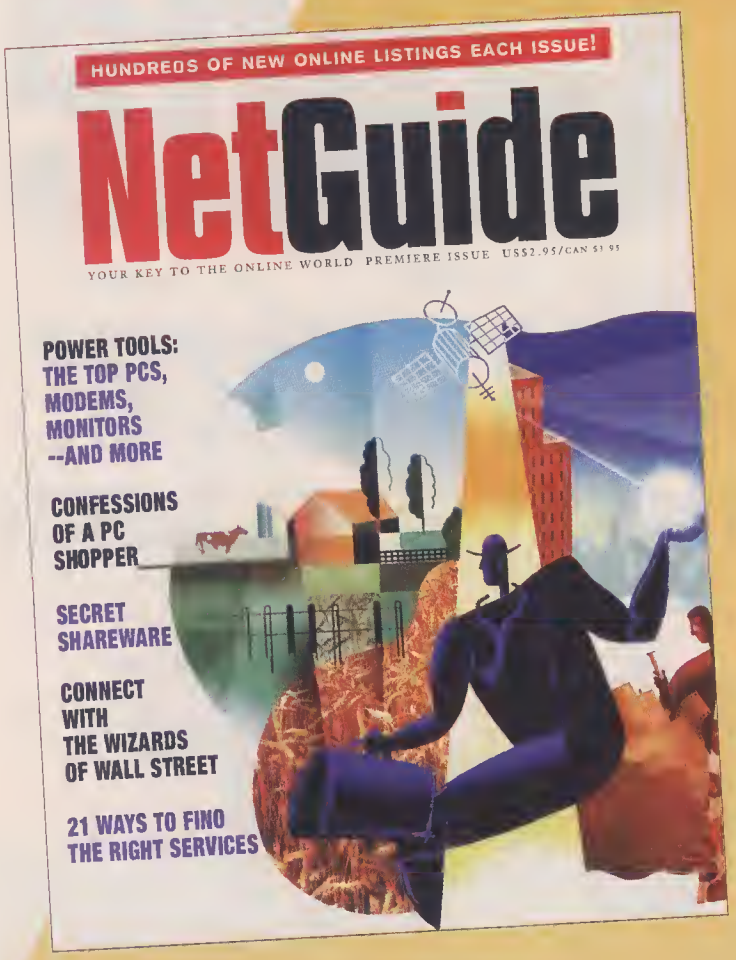
- SHOP DAY AND NIGHT
- DOWNLOAD HOT GAMES
- SAFE SITES FOR KIDS
- E-MAIL DOS AND DON'TS
- THE DOOM BOOM
- MOVIE, MUSIC AND VIDEO NEWS
- AND MUCH MORE

PLUS:
Graham Nash, Adam Curry and Ralph Nader on World Peace and the INTERNET

EXCERPTED FROM NETGUIDE, A CMP PUBLICATION

From the publishers of HOMEPC...

The ultimate online navigation tool!



Explore Cyberspace

with the new monthly guide to the online world of information and entertainment!

What's new online? Which Internet newsgroups, chat lines, and bulletin boards are hot? Where's the online action — and how do I get there?

Find out with NetGuide, the first-ever program guide to Cyberspace!

There's never been a magazine like NetGuide! Every month NetGuide points you to the best and brightest places to be and things to see online — more than a hundred listings broken down by areas of interest for quick and easy access.

• News, Arts & Entertainment! • Sports! • Business & Finance! • Travel! • Reference Sources! • Science & Technology! • Computers & Software! • Games! • Romance • Lifestyles! • Politics! • The Media! • And much more!

These aren't ordinary listings — they're reviews.

Before we publish them, our expert staff researches each listing. How easy is it to access? If it's a bulletin board, is the line always busy? How expensive is it? Is it worth the cost?

Navigate like a pro...

NetGuide isn't only a "where to" guide. It's also a "how-to" manual. You'll learn how to get around cyberspace and valuable techniques to make you a more cost-effective explorer on the information superhighway.

Charter Offer 3 FREE ISSUES!

Be one of the first to try NetGuide!

Call 1-800-238-6644.

OFFER: You will receive a COMPLIMENTARY 3 ISSUE TRIAL SUBSCRIPTION to NetGuide. We will also send a Charter discount invoice for 12 additional issues (15 issues in all) for only $14.97 — less than a dollar an issue, and a Charter savings of 65% off the newsstand rate. If you aren't *amazed* by what NetGuide shows you, return the invoice marked "cancel." You will owe nothing and your three free issues will be yours to keep.

1411HG

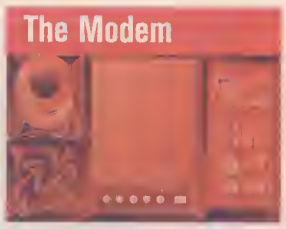
NetGuide

DECEMBER 1994 A CMP PUBLICATION® VOL.1 NO.1

Welcome to NetGuide, *your definitive source of information for the Internet and online services, and your link to cyberculture. Our aim is to inform, entertain and enlighten you by identifying trends, spotlighting the movers and shakers on the information superhighway and grappling with the challenges they are meeting head-on. At the heart of the magazine is our money- and time-saving CyberGuide, with hundreds of in-depth reviews of places to visit. Enjoy the journey.*

Graham Nash explores the Internet

FEATURES



Workshop: Online Construction Kit • *by Lawrence J. Magid*
Three ways to get you up and running online

We Are the World • *by Marion Long*
Can the Internet advance peace?
Susan Brownmiller, Graham Nash, John Anderson and six others discuss the global ties that bind

DEPARTMENTS

NEWS ROOM
Flash: Comics, domestic violence, celebs online

POWER TOOLS
Modem Operandi: Choosing equipment that's right for you

NET WORTH
In Chaum We Trust: Digital cash promises to change the concept of money

LAW & ORDER
The People's (Virtual) Court

NET PROWLER
Oh, the Places You'll Go (on the Internet)

REAL TIME
Surfing the net with author Douglas Adams

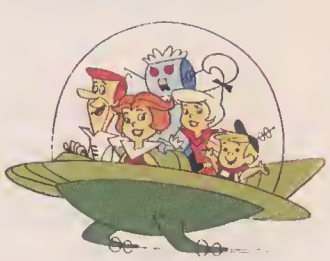
GAMES
A Doom of One's Own: Remake this game in your image—or that of a friend

NO EXIT
Dave Barry Turns 'Geek'

CYBERGUIDE

New sites evaluated each month in a variety of categories

Arcade
Dollars & Sense
Etc.
For Kids Only
Good Reads
Leisure Time
Marketplace
Palate Pleasers
Public Domain
Showbiz
Sound Booth
Spirituality
Sporting Life
Travelogue
Weather
Signature File



Cover photo illustration by Barry Blackman
Teddy bear courtesy of FAO Schwarz; cake by the Silver Star restaurant, New York; football courtesy of Herman's World of Sporting Goods

Modem Operandi

Everyone's MO differs. Here's how to choose the equipment that's best for you

It was an ordinary day in the life of Steve Fox, a day like a hundred others. But something was about to happen that would change his life forever. Steve went out and bought a modem, hooked it to his computer and dialed America Online. The sun rose and set; the leaves turned colors and dropped; and the snows began falling before Steve realized what had happened. He had contracted modem madness and had become addicted to the online world.

So readers beware. What follows may seem like an ordinary guide to buying a modem. In fact, it is your pass to the datasphere. There may be no turning back once you get the bug.

—The Editors

The modem did it: Killing time online isn't a crime.

Your first choice in modem shopping: deciding between a modem that attaches to the inside or outside of your computer. If you need reassurance while dialing, you'll probably prefer an external modem. These paperback-book-sized devices sport on and off switches and a series of lights. In other words, you see them work.

Moreover, external modems are easy to install. Plug the power cord into a wall outlet, hook the modem to your phone line with a regular telephone extension cord and connect the modem to your computer with a serial cable. Another plus for external models: You can switch them from your desktop computer to a laptop, or from a PC to an Apple Macintosh. PCs and Macs use the same external modems; only the cable that connects them differs.

If you travel with a laptop, consider springing for a pocket modem. Although these devices typically cost about 25 percent to 50 percent more than full-sized external modems, they are the smallest, lightest externals available. But if portability takes a backseat to your budget, consider buying a modem that fits inside your computer. Internal modems run from $20 to $30 less than comparable externals. Before you buy an internal modem, though, make sure it's compatible with your computer's expansion slots. As for laptops, the older ones generally have an internal modem slot that works only with a particular modem brand or model.

SPEED DEMONS

At one time, those in the grips of modem madness thought 9600-bit-per-second modems were a panacea. Compared with 2400-bps models, online searches using 9600-bps modems seemed swift.

Today it's all 14,400 and 28,800 bps, also known as 14.4 and 28.8 Kbps, or kilobits per second. The higher the bits per second, the more data a modem transmits every second. Theoretically, 28.8 modems transfer data at twice the speed of 14.4 modems. You'll only see that payoff, however, when there's another 28.8 modem at the other end of the exchange. If you opt for a 14.4, make sure it fits the international standard v32bis (Latin for "second version") and the matching standard for data compression, v42bis. Compressing data files lets the modem transmit certain kinds of data up to four times faster than files that are not compressed.

ALWAYS THE FAX, MA'AM

Another consideration when shopping for a modem: whether you want one that handles faxes. Actually, it's hard to find a modem that doesn't fax. Just make sure the fax modem you get is either Class 1 or Class 2. These two standards work with the widest selection of fax software. Avoid modems that support only Class 2: It's older and less versatile than Class 1.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX?

When buying that modem, check out the communications software that comes packaged with it. Low-end modems frequently short-change buyers by including only the most basic software or shareware programs. Top-of-the-line modems generally provide more expansive, reliable software. Once your modem is up and running, you'll be amazed at the places you can explore. @

ILLUSTRATION © 1994 BASEMAN

WE ARE THE WORLD

People use the Internet to learn about other cultures and lend support in hard times. We asked nine celebrities to discuss the electronic ties that bind. Here are excerpts from four of those interviews. BY MARION LONG

Susan Brownmiller

Author of Against our Will: Men, Women and Rape; Femininity; *and* Seeing Vietnam.

JONATHAN BECKER

Authoritarian countries are hesitating before allowing their people access to this technology. I know it is being discussed at the highest levels in Vietnam. Government officials are nervous that people are going to use the Internet to push certain programs and issues and values that the Vietnamese government, which wants to stay in charge, doesn't want. They have good reason to be nervous. You can disseminate the information so quickly through the Internet. At this point, the Internet is still a largely middle-class operation … Democratic values and tolerance ought to be exported.

Graham Nash

Musician. He co-founded Nash Editions, a pioneering fine art press dedicated to digital printing of collectible art.

ANDREW ECCLES/OUTLINE PRESS

All of the things that people talk about the Internet accomplishing in the future—making the world a smaller place and so on—it's already absolutely doing now. I have a friend who is a photographer for *National Geographic* who was sent on assignment to photograph this particular tribe, living in a remote area. And he goes to meet the chief of this tribe, and the [expletive deleted] guy is sitting in front of his thatched hut with a PowerBook on his lap! And that's what we are talking about here with the Internet. It is not only cross-pollination of ideas between people around the world, but across the ages. … It's completely mind-blowing to me.

Ralph Nader

Lawyer/public advocate. Head of the Center for Study of Responsive Law, the birthplace of Nader's Raiders.

JONATHAN BECKER

In my view, the most important information resources on the Internet are not stored in digital formats on a hard disk, but reside in the minds of the citizens who exchange electronic mail. When hundreds, thousands or even hundreds of thousands of persons organize themselves in forums to debate important public policy issues, they bring together vast amounts of specialized expertise and information, creating synergies that are more powerful and useful than the most sophisticated database systems. It is also important for citizens to have free or low-cost access to databases of government information.

Oscar Arias Sanchez

President of the Republic of Costa Rica from 1986 to 1990. Received the 1987 Nobel Peace Prize.

JONATHAN BECKER

The information highway's greatest asset is that it can reach everyone, everywhere. Just as we in the so-called Third World seek to benefit from technology exchanges, so can the developed world benefit from the diversity of culture and perspective that we will bring to the Internet. It is my sincere hope that those now traveling the Internet share my belief that all peoples should be allowed access to the highway to the future.

For more of celebrities' opinions on the value of the Internet, see the premiere, December issue of NetGuide.

CYBERGUIDE

OKO & MANO INC.

Around the world in a day: Play games, shop at the mall, learn to juggle, explore the moon, check the weather and more

ARCADE

Want some arcade-style action? Then **GENIE**'s *CyberStrike* (KEYWORD **MPGAMES**) should suit you. You control a two-legged cyberpod in which you must explore and conquer (the not surprisingly named) CyberCity. Standing in your way are other players from around the world. You can form teams or play solo, but either way expect a serious adventure.

Before playing, you must first download user-friendly front-end software (a special terminal program that will let you log onto GEnie and play *CyberStrike*); the expanded file is approximately 1 megabyte. If you have SoundBlaster, you'll probably want to grab the separate sound file. Although that eats up another megabyte of disk space, it will allow you to escape the annoying beeps and buzzes of the PC speaker. The 3-D graphics are the boxy polygons familiar to users of early virtual reality simulators.

GEnie describes *CyberStrike* as the "most exciting and easy-to-play multiplayer game" it offers. Well, it might not be quite that exciting—BattleTech packs a much stronger punch—but it's easy to use and provides a good introduction to multiplayer video games.

As with most of GEnie's games, help or general discussion can be found for *CyberStrike* on the Multi-Player Games RoundTable.

Whether you dream of being the Red Baron flying in his Fokker biplane or perhaps the World War I flying ace Snoopy himself in his Sopwith Camel, **IMAGINATION**'s *Red Baron* (KEYWORD **REDBARON**) is for you. You go head-to-head with real aces from around the world, flying in WWI-vintage aircraft. The game is much more a combat than flight simulator; there are no complex controls to learn or treacherous winds to avoid, just your ability to corner the enemy and dodge bullets. Hop into your plane and enter one of the best dog-fight arcade games available for network play. The graphics impressed us, but even more surprising is the lack of lag time. Despite the detailed pictures (and sound, if you have the proper hardware), the game runs quite smoothly even at 2400 bps.

COURTESY OF SIMUTRONICS CO. AND GENIE

Invasion of the pod people: *CyberStrike* (MPGAMES) lets you play by yourself or with others.

DOLLARS & SENSE

While **AMERICA ONLINE**'s version of the popular personal finance magazine, *Worth*, isn't the same as holding glossy pages in your hot little hands, *Worth Online* (KEYWORD **WORTH**) is still a site that's—ahem—worth seeing. Other publishers should take lessons from *Worth Online* on the right way to turn a print publication into an online service. This well-designed site pleases the eye with colorful graphics and includes the full text of current articles, archives of past issues and timely features.

Among those features is the Online Portfolio, where you can steal a glance at the way portfolio managers conduct their daily business—what and how and why they borrow, sell and buy. There's also a heavily used message board. If you're having trouble with your bank, you can e-mail the Worth Advocate, a service that helps readers resolve problems

Icon Legend

- Shopping
- Games
- Downloadable text and/or software files
- Reference and archive information
- Chat, user communication, either in real time or on bulletin board systems

with financial institutions.

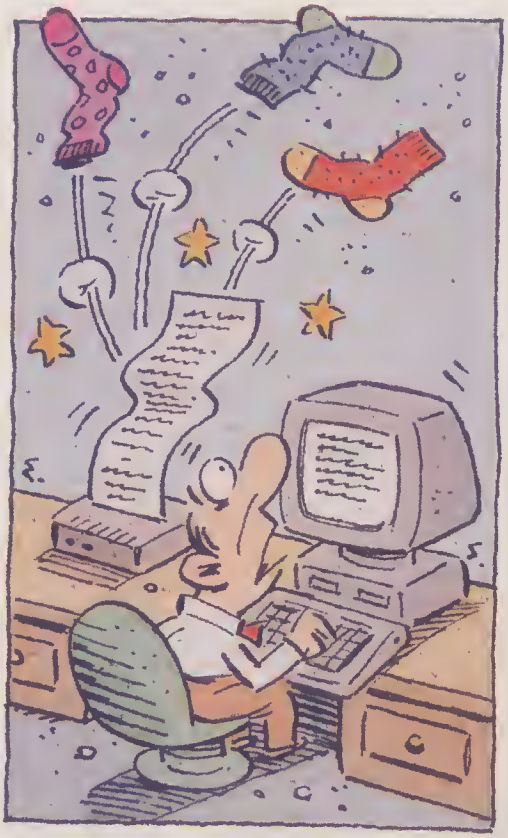
This site isn't an online service trying to be a magazine or a magazine that is merely being offered online; instead, *Worth Online* uses the best elements of each medium and transcends both.

You realize you should plan for the future but don't know where to begin? Enter *Money Matters* on **EWORLD** (SHORTCUT **MONEY MATTERS**). You'll find "sensible advice on how to save and where to invest—from people who know how to do both." Columnists Humberto Cruz and William Donoghue also know how to write in a clear, entertaining manner. They're provided by Tribune Media Services, which manages the financial emporium here. E-mail TMS for help. Read valuable tips in the Personal Strategies, Inside Investing and Best Rates areas to help you hang onto more of your money. Talk to fellow investors on the Money Talks bulletin board system—or live in The Vault.

Plenty of deposits exist here, but people aren't collecting the interest—participation on the BBS is light, and no chats were scheduled as of this writing. The service offers high returns on your investment—it's clearly organized and provides valuable information—Securities and Exchange Commission filings, for example. We loved the listing of banks offering low-interest-rate credit cards and have nominated Humberto Cruz as our own savings mentor. We only wish he were in The Vault or the BBS.

MARKETPLACE

Where in cyberspace is *Broderbund Software*? Discounted games and educational programs from the creator of the popular but ever-secluded Carmen Sandiego are available on **COMPUSERVE** (GO **BB**). *Broderbund* delivers 25-percent savings on its titles, and its elves will help you solve common software conflicts so you can play games and use your printer. *Broderbund* makes cybershopping child's play, with easy-to-follow guidelines and online e-mail help. To ensure that you'll be able to spend your time having fun, a well-written technical support section provides answers to common problems. And if you just can't wait to start searching out Carmen's hiding spots, we'd suggest springing for the extra $4 for second-day air—either UPS or Federal Express—as standard UPS orders can take up to four weeks to be delivered. The site accepts major credit cards.



ELWOOD H. SMITH/LAUGHING STOCK

So that's where all the unmatched socks went.

Love coffee? Love to talk about it? Sit down for a cuppa joe at *Cafe Gourmet*'s custom forum on **DELPHI** (GO **CUST 192**). It's an online extension of the Arabica Gourmet Coffee & Tea Club, based in Santa Barbara, Calif. Read about *Cafe Gourmet*'s more than 80 varieties of whole bean gourmet coffee, ask questions online and then order by e-mail with your credit card.

If you're looking for that caffeine hit right away, be forewarned that you'll wait seven to 10 business days for your order to arrive, since all packages are sent first-class U.S. mail.

While this coffeehouse isn't crowded yet, the proprietor works hard to encourage general conversation about coffee and asks you to leave notes about your favorite coffeehouses. *Cafe Gourmet* even invites the competition to participate.

Unfortunately, while the content is hot, the service is not. Delphi should wake up and smell the coffee—trying to follow posts in those custom forums is as murky as a pot of three-day-old espresso. We're hoping Delphi's new graphical user interface—due in 1995—will help clarify things.

PALATE PLEASERS

Do lobsters scream when you drop them in boiling water? Will your kids be traumatized if they do? You can find the answer to these questions and hundreds of others on **PRODIGY**'s *Food BB* (JUMP **FOOD BB**). Topics on this Prodigy Plus service include discussions of utensils and other hardware, cookbook and cooking software recommendations and, of course, food. Requests for and

posts of recipes abound, and many will make your mouth water, as ours did over a formula for Jack Daniels Chocolate Chip Pecan Pie. Special sections for healthy eating, vegetarian concerns and holiday cooking make *Food BB* a special treat for chefs and other food buffs; contests and special guests, such as Robert DiLallo, editor and founder of the *Journal of Italian Wine and Food*, ice the cake.

After much debate, we still don't have a definitive answer to the screaming-lobster question. One user weighed in for the case against with this post: "No, I don't think lobsters scream nor do any other seafood. Can you imagine the cacophony when boiling 50 lbs. of crawfish? It would be ear-shattering." Right. If you can illuminate the issue, you know how to reach us.

Do you hunger for a place to kibitz about cuisine? If so, *Food & Wine RoundTable* on **GENIE** (KEYWORD **FOOD**) is good solid fare—sort of the meat and potatoes of food forums. Like many GEnie sites, *Food RT* suffers from poky online discussions and an interface that moves like molasses in January. The contents, however, have good flavor. You can print out *Nibbles & Bytes*, the *Food RT* newsletter, if you need something to read while the bread also rises. Bulletin board discussions and library archives are classified by type, region and ethnicity of food (including beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages). The BB also includes sections for healthy eating and diet support, the cooking business, kitchen equipment and cooking with computers. A given thread may not receive posts daily, or even weekly, but some discussions continue over several months, and a few last more than a year.

One hint: *Food RT* is a huge kitchen; we suggest that you read About the RoundTable, which provides a great introduction to a good site.

SOUND BOOTH

Whether you like your eggs fried or scrambled, you'll get your tunes sunny-side up in the *Music Kitchen* on the **WORLD-WIDE WEB** (**HTTP://WWW.NANDO.NET/MUSIC/GM**). Since the summer of 1994, *MK* has been "serving up full courses" from bands like the Beastie Boys and Redd Kross; as of this writing, acts as diverse as Meat Puppets and Stephen Stills were listed as "soon to join the menu." From the home page, you can check out one of the bands (which officially sponsor *Music Kitchen*) or hyperlink to pages from several independent record labels.

What's in a full course? Well, the Beastie Boys site includes photos, sound clips, song lyrics and a discography, plus hypertext links to Mosh Pit Do's and Don'ts and the Milarepa Flyer, which provides a surfeit of information on Buddhism in Tibet, Crimes Against Tibet, Starting a Tibet Support Group on Your Campus and, of course, About Tibet. What can we say? Once again, the Web demonstrates its propensity for catering to nonlinear thinkers. Overall taste: Quality beats out quantity. Sure, the room is small, but this is the coolest kitchen we've ever seen.

Now, Deadheads have a place to hang out between concert dates. *The Grateful Dead Forum* on **AMERICA ONLINE** (KEYWORD **DEAD**) documents a subculture (NetHeads) of a subculture (Deadheads) in pictures, sounds and the words of its members, leaders, rebels and some outsiders. The site includes a message board, a chat area, news bulletins, newsgroups, mailing lists and a Dead library. In the message area, more than 12,000 posts cover every imaginable Deadhead topic, from a Dead dictionary to rumors—Jerry's getting married, Phil got fired—to concert information, ride-shares, gay and lesbian Deadhead issues, bootlegging, and legalizing marijuana. Somebody pinch us.

If you're into the Grateful Dead, we suggest that you take the long strange trip to the *Dead Forum*. If you're not, the sheer volume of information may bewilder or bore you. But wandering around in the forum can be a fascinating experience—even for the living.

***Fight for Your Right to Party* in the *Music Kitchen*, where you'll find the Beastie Boys.**

See it. Hear it. Buy it.

A hot new interactive TV show, Multimedia *Today*, is here to bring you the best in CD-ROM software & hardware right to your home.

Whether you're interested in animation, video, music, or graphics, Multimedia *Today* helps you put all the pieces in place. We give you the information you need to make your system achieve top performance.

And when it comes to software, we demo it all -- the hottest games, the latest in edutainment and the best in productivity tools.

Once you've got that information and you're ready to act, you can buy those products direct from leading manufacturers exclusively through Multimedia *Today*.

If you're into the excitement of multimedia, we make it easy. Tune us in, you'll love it!

Begins airing November 23. Call 1-800-427-9655 ext. 600 for showtimes.

IBM TigerDirect REDGATE WTDT Worldwide Target Demographic Television

Helping you solve the multimedia puzzle!

advertisers index

This index is provided as an additional service by the publisher, which assumes no liability for errors or omissions.
Note: "A" pages indicate the Holiday Gift Guide.

advertiser	page
Ability Plus Software	128
Acecad	3+9
Acer America Corp.	86-87, A6-A7
Advanced Logic Research	A36
AdventureSource	376
Agfa, Division of Miles Inc.	A12
Alacrity Systems Inc.	324, A28
Aldus Consumer Division	126-127, A13
AlphaSport	357
AMAX Engineering Corp.	A34
Amdek	179
America Online	105-106
American Bible Sales	358
American Institute For Computer Sciences	358
American Power Conversion	48-51, 301, A+0
AMTEX	367, 369
Animedia!	3+5
Apple Computer Inc.	38-39, 41, A31
Applied Medical Informatics	285
Arion Software	A17
Arnowitz Studios	A16
AST Research Inc.	44-45
Asymetrix	250
AT&T Global Information	C5-C7
Automap Inc.	197, A16
Baby Doc	373
Banner Blue Software	56
Berkeley Systems Inc.	28, 42
Best Personalized Books	359
BLOCS Software Inc.	361
Bookmaker Corp.	199
Books That Work	A14
Borland International	A27
Brain Works	145, 187
Candlelight Publishing	359
Canon Computer Systems	2-3
Carmacon	374
Centsible Software	374
CH Products	366
Claris	172
CLIPables	360
Comfy Interactive Movies	227, A28
Compaq Direct Plus	32-33
Compton's New Media	156, 291
Compu-Teach Educational Software	A30
Compuclassic	3+1, 351
Computer Associates	83
Computer Express	162-163, A+1
Computer Gallery	36+
Computer Learning Foundation	3++
Comtrad Industries	350
ConnectSoft	2+1, A++
Consolidated CD-ROM	36+
Corel Systems Corp.	C2-1, A37
Creative Labs	20, 100-101, 113, 115, 117, 119, 121, 212-213, A19-A26
Curtis Manufacturing Co. Inc.	276
CyberMedia	373
CyberSales Inc.	36+
Cyrix	185
Datatech Software	A16
Davidson & Associates Inc.	97, 99
Delorme Mapping	71, A36
Delphi Internet	46
Delrina	A33
Designer Checks	356
Desktop Darlings	361
Digital Directory	205
Digital Equipment Corp.	A43
Digital Pictures	150-151
Discis	24+
Discovery Entertainment Software	378
Disney Software	4-5, A14
E2 Software	272
Edirol	360
Electronic Arts	225, A31
Epson America	12-13
Fishpot Images	360
Fractal Design	93
Fusion Software	339
Future Vision Multimedia	154-155, 229
Gametek Inc.	221
Gateway 2000	78-81
GE Information Systems	147-149
Gold Disk	3+
Grantham College	358
Great Bear	347
Great Wave Software	198, A10
Greatime Software	377
Grolier Electronic	23
Gryphon Software Corp.	251, A29
GTE Interactive	88-89
Harvard Associates Inc.	375
Health Help Corp.	323
Hefty Publishing Co. Inc.	359
IBM Multimedia Publishing Studio	235, 248
ICA Software	363
Image Smith	305
ImagiNation Network	273-274
Insight Direct	289
Institute of Technical Studies	359
Intel Corp.	135, 137, 139
Intellimedia Sports Inc.	252
International Jensen Inc.	53
Interplay Productions	8, A8
Intuit	223
Intuit South	143
IVI Publishing	98, 120, 288, 305, 326
Josten's Home Learning	255, A32
Jump! Software	282
Kensington	65
Kids CD-ROM Connection	374
Kid's Advantage	376
Kidsoft Inc.	263, A31
KIDware	374
KYE International	296, A38
Labtec	323
Lexmark	210-211
Linksys	22, A12
Logitech	11, 309-320, A+
LucasArts Entertainment Co.	207, A9
Lyriq International Corp.	70, 266
M & R Enterprises	367
Mag Innovision	6-7, A39
Magee	377
Maxis	209, 287, A18
Medio	281, A28
MicroDisk Services	366
Micrografx	57
Micron Computer	12+125
Microprose	161
Microsoft	14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 24-25, 26-27, 30-31
Midisoft	90
Moramax Software Inc.	271
Morgan Interactive	279, A27
Multimedia Logic	364
NEC Technologies	A2, A+2
NeoSoft Corp.	365
New World Computing	141
Nokia Display Products Inc.	58-59
NU Reality	21+
Objix Multimedia Corp.	A37
Okidata	84-85
Opcode Interactive	254
Panasonic	171, 233
Paramount Interactive	C8
Parsons Technology	3+3
PCDI	358
Philips Interactive Media	67-69, A17
Pixel Perfect	373
Portfolio Software Inc.	A37
Princeton Review	A36
Prodigy	299-300
QuiltSOFT	366
Quinsept Inc.	360
Reasonable Solutions Inc.	362
Ruth's Recipes	367
Sanctuary Woods	55, 267
SRO Systems	360
School-Age Software	376
Seiko Instruments	268
Serif Inc.	189-191
Shapeware Visio	60-61
Sierra On-Line	35, A35
Sigma Designs	231, A5
Smart Luck Software	358
Softsparks	374
Software Marketing	242-243
Software Sorcery	A17
Software Support International	365
SongWright Software	360
Sound Source Interactive	292
Spectrum Holobyte	74-75
Sports Illustrated Kids	348
STAC	43
Storm Software	159
Sunstar Publishing	323, A10
Surplus Software	379
Symantec Corp.	290
Symsoft Corp.	A+0
T Rowe Price	324
TLC	375
Take Two	237
TES Inc.	378
Test Drive	30+
The Discovery Channel	256-257
The Edutainment Company	353
The Learning Company	342
The Home Learning Center	362
Time Warner Interactive	247, 265
TransLanguage Inc.	362
Turner Home Entertainment	95, 258
Twelve Tone Systems	361
U.S. Robotics	306
USA Flex	72-73
Videologic Inc.	40
Villas of the Caribbean	369
Virgin Interactive	195, A+0
Virgin Sound & Vision	29, 169, 200
Virtual Entertainment	322
Western Digital Corp.	177
WinMicro Corp.	359, 364
Wolfram Research	A11
WordPerfect	36-37, 108-109, 111
Worldwide Target Demographic Television	335
X Soft	303, A15
Yamaha	183
Zeos	152-153

HomePC (ISSN #1073-1784) is published monthly for $21.97 per year by CMP Media, 600 Community Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030. Second-class pending postage paid at Manhasset, NY, and additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *HomePC*, P.O. Box 420211, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0211. Registered for GST as CMP Media. GST #138355995 (agreement number pending).

SUBSCRIBER INFORMATION: To obtain information and/or order a subscription or to change information about existing subscriptions, call (800) 829-0119 or (904) 445-4662, ext. 420. U.S.: One year (12 issues) $21.97. Two years (24 issues) $36.97. Canada/Mexico: add $10 per year for postage. Overseas: add $18 per year for postage. All foreign orders must be accompanied by payment in U.S. funds.

GIVE

SAVE 65%!

Giving HOMEPC is as generous as the spirit of the Holidays itself.

Order gift subscriptions today for everyone on your holiday list who has a PC at home. Then relax and enjoy the festive days ahead!

IT TAKES JUST A MINUTE.
No jostling crowds. No overheated stores. No pressure and no big bite out of your wallet.

IT'S AFFORDABLE.
In fact, prices are at their lowest ever. A full year — 12 issues — for only $12.97!

IT'S ALWAYS NEW.
HOMEPC will be appreciated all year long.

FREE GIFT CARDS.
We'll send an attractive Holiday gift card to each recipient to announce your gift subscription. Plus each issue will serve as a monthly reminder of your thoughtful generosity.

For fastest service, call 1-800-238-1199

HOMEPC GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

○ YES, please enter my gift subscription for the person listed on this card and bill me at the special Holiday rate of only $12.97 per gift (1 year/12 issues) — a savings of $22.43 each off the newsstand price, your lowest rate possible!

○ Payment enclosed ○ Bill me ○ Renew my subscription at the special Holiday price

FROM: (PLEASE PRINT)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

SEND GIFT TO:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

DON'T SEND MONEY NOW IF IT'S NOT CONVENIENT!
WE'LL BILL YOU LATER.

7412GA

HOMEPC GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

○ YES, please enter my gift subscription for the person listed on this card and bill me at the special Holiday rate of only $12.97 per gift (1 year/12 issues) — a savings of $22.43 each off the newsstand price, your lowest rate possible!

○ Payment enclosed ○ Bill me ○ Renew my subscription at the special Holiday price

FROM: (PLEASE PRINT)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

SEND GIFT TO:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

DON'T SEND MONEY NOW IF IT'S NOT CONVENIENT!
WE'LL BILL YOU LATER.

7412GB

HOMEPC GIFT SUBSCRIPTION

○ YES, please enter my gift subscription for the person listed on this card and bill me at the special Holiday rate of only $12.97 per gift (1 year/12 issues) — a savings of $22.43 each off the newsstand price, your lowest rate possible!

○ Payment enclosed ○ Bill me ○ Renew my subscription at the special Holiday price

FROM: (PLEASE PRINT)

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

SEND GIFT TO:

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

DON'T SEND MONEY NOW IF IT'S NOT CONVENIENT!
WE'LL BILL YOU LATER.

7412GC

PRIORITY: GIFT

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

HOMEPC
P.O. Box 420212
Palm Coast, FL 32142-9468

PRIORITY: GIFT

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

HOMEPC
P.O. Box 420212
Palm Coast, FL 32142-9468

PRIORITY: GIFT

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IF MAILED IN THE UNITED STATES

BUSINESS REPLY MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL PERMIT NO 27 FLAGLER BEACH, FL

POSTAGE WILL BE PAID BY ADDRESSEE

HOMEPC
P.O. Box 420212
Palm Coast, FL 32142-9468

GIVE

The gift that's opened 12 times a year!

- Lively!
- Colorful!
- Packed with exciting photographs!
- Step-by-step illustrated how-tos!
- Objective reviews!
- Concise articles!
- Written in plain English!

It's the easiest Holiday shopping you'll do all year!

Just complete and mail a card and we'll do the rest!

For fastest service, call 1-800-238-1199

With Value Vision™ Your Home Inventory Won't be a Disaster

Trying to establish what you've lost and trying to prove it is the last thing on your mind when disaster strikes. Value Vision™ is a Personal Inventory Manager™ that includes these features to help you - before disaster strikes:

- Quick, easy, and fun graphical interface
- 600+ room and item icons
- A complete record of your home or office contents
- Expert insurance advice
- Contents selection, sorting and reporting
- Claim forms
- Settlement tracking

AS LOW AS **$9.95**

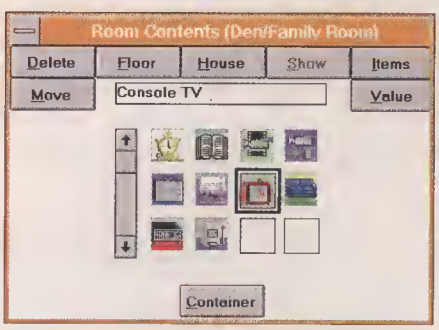
ORDER TODAY! 1-800-856-8566

713-465-6363 (Houston) • 713-465-9749 (fax)
Fusion Software 9039 Katy Frwy, Ste 501, Houston, TX 77024
TX residents add 8.25 % sales tax

Finally, Personal Inventory Software That Is Quick, Easy, and Fun

Armed only with a mouse and Fusion Software's **VALUE VISION**, you can capture the contents of your home or office, and it's quick, easy, and fun. Now you can have the peace of mind you've always wanted, knowing that you are properly insured. And filing an insurance claim with **VALUE VISION** is as easy as clicking a mouse button.

What used to be a boring, tedious, text operation with a database, word processor, or spreadsheet, is now fun, easy, and graphical with **VALUE VISION**. If you can drag and drop an icon, you can create a list of the contents of your home or office. It's that simple!



INTRO** Single Owner, Single Dwelling	***FREE**
STANDARD Single Owner, Multiple Dwelling	$19.95
PLUS Single Owner, MD, Quicken interface	$29.95
PRO Mult Owner, MD, Quicken interface	$129.95
Value Vision upgrade	Call
Quicken competitive upgrade	Call

New Release Version 2.0 !

- Export to Quicken 3.0 for Windows (PLUS & PRO only)
- CPI valuation option
- Depreciation for— Net asset value and Adjusted settlement value
- Multiple dwellings
- Multiple owners (PRO only)
- Supplemental reference
- Item ownership
- Category maintenance
- Enhanced graphics
- Performance improvements
- Reduced run-time memory
- More icons

FREE! • With VALUE VISION PLUS or PRO program, Free award winning desktop publisher for Windows • FREE!

Microsoft® Windows™ Compatible

****Full credit for upgrade to any version within 60 days of purchase date.**

*Intro version only, there is a $9.95 nonrefundable shipping and handling charge. Have your Mastercard or Visa ready. Prices are for the U.S. only, Canada add $3, other countries add $20. IBM PC or compatible running windows 3.1, VGA or better, mouse or compatible device, and minimum 4MB ram required. Prices are subject to change without notice. Fusion Software, Inc., Houston, TX 77024. Value Vision and Personal Inventory Manager are trademarks of Fusion Software. Windows is a trademark of Microsoft Corporation. Quicken is a trademark of Intuit.

C12

fusion Software

HOMEPC

Research shows *that roughly* **one quarter** *of all PC* **consumers** *have* **bought** *a PC* **directly from** *the* **manufacturer** *or via* **mail order** *and almost* **50%** *have* **bought software** *in the* **same manner.**

HomePC Direct is **designed** *to* **offer** *the* HomePC **reader** *a sampling of* **companies** *that* **specialize** *in selling* **products directly** *to* **you.**

So if you **prefer buying** *PC* **hardware** *and* **software** *through the* **mail** *or are considering* **trying** *this* **avenue** *for the first time, you* **will find** *HomePC Direct of* **value.**

DIRECT

THE EASIEST WAY TO BUY SOFTWARE

CALL 800 697-2006
FAX 24 HRS A DAY 818 347-9977

To all Educational Institutions, Teachers and Students

Please call for special educational pricing for the following publishers: Microsoft, Lotus, Wordperfect, Aldus, Borland, Logitech, Symantec, U.S. Robotics, Central Point, Shapeware, Software Publishing and Travelling Software.

Compuclassics is your authorized educational reseller.

LARGEST SELECTION • LOWER PRICES • SPECIALIZE IN CD ROM

ACCOUNTING

M.Y.O.B. ACCOUNTING V4.0 FOR WINDOWS	59.00
MANAGING YOUR MONEY V10.0	39.00
MS MONEY FOR WINDOWS V3.0	29.00
QUICKEN FOR DOS OR WINDOWS	44.00
WEALTH BUILDER V3.0	69.00

CAD

3D HOME ARCHITECT V1.0 WINDOWS	59.00
DESIGN AND BUILD YOUR OWN DECK WINDOWS	49.00
HOME DESIGN GOLD EDITION WINDOWS	35.00

COMMUNICATIONS

LAPLINK V5.0	105.00
PROCOMM PLUS DOS	74.00
PROCOMM PLUS WINDOWS	105.00
WINEAX PRO V3.0 SINGLE	82.00

EDUCATION/INFORMATION

3D DINOSAUR ADVENTURE DOS/WIN	32.00
AUTO INSIGHT FOR DOS/WINDOWS	45.00
AUTOWORKS -	45.00
BODY INSIGHT FOR DOS/WINDOWS	45.00
BODYWORKS V3.0	45.00
CHILDREN'S WRITING/PUBLISHING AGES 7-14	45.00
CLIFFS STUDYWARE FOR THE SAT I	35.00
ECOQUEST II: LOST SECRET OF RAIN FOREST	35.00
KID EAD AGES 7 AND UP	35.00
KID PIX DOS OR WINDOWS	42.00
KID'S ZOO: A BABY ANIMAL	39.00
MARIO IS MISSING	39.00
MARIO TEACHES TYPING	29.00
MATH BLASTER MYSTERY	35.00
MATH RABBIT FOR DOS OR WINDOWS	35.00
MAVIS BEACON TEACHES TYPING 3	35.00
MICKEY'S 123'S ENHANCED AGES 2-5	25.00
MS CREATIVE WRITER FOR WIN V1.0	49.00
NEW! MATH RABBIT AGES 4-7	35.00
PC GLOBE MAPS 'N' FACTS	35.00
PC STUDY BIBLE FOR WINDOWS	89.00
PUTT PUTT JOINS THE PARADE	35.00
READER RABBIT 3 AGES 6-9	39.00
READING AND ME AGES 4-7	29.00
SCIENCE ADVENTURE V2.0	39.00
THE DREGON TRAIL DELUXE	39.00
THE PLAYROOM V2.0 (AGES 3-6)	35.00
U.S. ATLAS V4.0	39.00
WHERE IN AMERICA'S PAST IS EARMEN SA DIEGO?	35.00
WHERE IN THE USA (DELUXE ED)	45.00
WORLD ATLAS 4	49.00
YOUR PERSONAL TRAINER FOR THE NEW S.A.T. V2.0	39.00

ENTERTAINMENT

BATTLECHESS FOR WINDOWS	35.00
BRIDGE DELUXE WITH OMAR SHARIF	35.00
CHESSMASTER 3000	35.00
E-15 STRIKE EAGLE III	52.00
FALCON V3.0	52.00
FLIGHT SIM TOOL KIT	65.00
FRONT PAGE SPORTS: FOOTBALL PRO	42.00
JEOPARDY WITH ALEX TREBEK	29.00
KINGS QUEST VI:	39.00
LINKS 386 PRO	45.00
MAXIS BASEBALL FOR WINDOWS	45.00
MONOPOLY DELUXE	39.00
MS FLIGHT SIMULATOR DOS V5.0	49.00
MS GOLF FOR WINDOWS V1.0	49.00
QUEST FOR GLORY IV:	45.00
RAILROAD TYCOON DELUXE	45.00
SCRABBLE DELUXE	22.00
SIMCITY 2000	45.00
SIMEARTH	35.00
SIMLIFE	35.00
SPACE QUEST V:	45.00
STAR TREK THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY	39.00
STRIKE COMMANDER	35.00
XWING	45.00

GRAPHICS

BANNERMANIA	19.00
MS PUBLISHER FOR WINDOWS V2.0	99.00
PUBLISHER'S PARADISE (FONTS & CLIP ART)	39.00
THE PRINT SHOP DELUXE V1.2 DOS OR WINDOWS	52.00
VISIO HOME V1.0	79.00

MULTIMEDIA (CD ROM TITLES)

7TH GUEST	55.00
A HARD DAY'S NIGHT MPC	35.00
AMER. HERITAGE DICTIONARY	39.00
ASTROLOGY SOURCE	55.00
BERLITZ THINK AND TALK SPANISH.	103.00
BIBLE LIBRARY	59.00
CHESSMASTER 3000 MULTIMEDIA	39.00
CNN NEWSROOM GLOBAL VIEW	59.00
COMPTON'S INTERACTIVE ENCYCLOPEDIA	99.00
DENNIS MILLER: THAT'S NEWS TO ME	32.00
ESPN BASEBALL	45.00
FAMILY DOCTOR MPC	59.00
GREAT LITERATURE PERSONAL LIBRARY	39.00
GROLIER MPC ENCYCLOPEDIA COMP. UPGRADE	99.00
HELL FAB MPC V1.1	45.00
INFORMATION USA	49.00
JUST GRANDMA AND ME AGES 3-8	39.00
KIDS 2DO: A BABY ANIMAL ADVENTURE	55.00
MARIO IS MISSING! CD DELUXE	39.00
MAVIS BEACON TEACHES TYPING 2	39.00
MAYO CLINIC REFERENCE	59.00
MIXED-UP MOTHER GOOSE PRESCHOOL AND UP	45.00
MONARCH NOTES	49.00
MS ART GALLERY FOR WINDOWS V1.0	59.00
MS BASEBALL FOR WINDOWS V1.0	59.00
MS BOOKSHELF FOR WINDOWS V1994	75.00
MS CINEMANIA FOR WINDOWS V1994	59.00
MS ENCARTA V1994 ENCYCLOPEDIA	95.00
MS MULTIMEDIA BEETHOVEN V1.1	59.00
MS MULTIMEDIA GOLF FOR WIN V1.0	49.00
MS MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS WIN V1.0...	59.00
MYST	52.00
NATIONAL PARKS OF AMERICA	52.00
PETER & THE WOLF	35.00
PHARMASSIST V2.0	45.00
PUTT PUTT JOINS THE PARADE	49.00
REBEL ASSAULT	49.00
SCIENCE ADVENTURE II	55.00
SHAKESPEARE STUDY GUIDE	25.00
SHERLOCK HOLMES: CONSULTING DETECTIVE II	55.00
SOFTWARE TOOLWORKS REFERENCE LIBRARY	49.00
SPACE ADVENTURE AGES 5-ADULT	55.00
SPORTING NEWS BASEBALL GUIDE	55.00
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED ALMANAC	45.00
SPORTS ILLUSTRATED MPC SPORTS ALMANAC	39.00
STREET ATLAS USA	99.00
THE ADVENTURES OF WILLY BEAMISH	45.00
THE ANIMALS: SAN DIEGO ZOO	45.00
THE DOCTOR'S BOOK OF HOME REMEDIES	35.00
THE GUINESS MPC DISK OF RECORDS: 1993	49.00
THE HEALING FOODS COOKBOOK	35.00
THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK	39.00
THE SPORTING NEWS PRO FOOTBALL GUIDE	32.00
THE TALE OF PETER RABBIT AGES 3+	25.00
TIME ALMANAC 1993	59.00
TONY LARUSSA BASEBALL II	55.00
TRIVIA: A MULTIMEDIA GAME VOL.1	45.00
U.S ATLAS VERSION 4	39.00
U.S. PRESIDENTS	49.00
UFO - GUIDE TO CLOSE ENCOUNTERS	39.00
VIDEO DIRECTOR	129.00
WHERE IN THE USA (DELUXE ED)	59.00
WHERE IN THE WORLD (DELUXE ED)	59.00
WORLD ATLAS V4.0	45.00
WORLD ATLAS V4.0 MPC	45.00

MULTIMEDIA HARDWARE

CREATIVE LABS SPEAKERS (CT-38)	29.00
DIAMOND INT 680MB CDROM	239.00
SOUNDBLASTER 16 BASIC EDITION	145.00
SOUNDBLASTER 16 MCD W/A.S.P.	229.00
THE MIRACLE PIANO TEACHING SYSTEM	299.00
VIDEO SPIGOT FOR WINDOWS	279.00

OPERATING SYSTEMS

MS DOS V6.21 UPGRADE	49.00
MS WINDOWS V3.11	92.00
MS WINDOWS V3.11 UPGRADE	49.00

PERSONAL INFORMATION

AUTOMAP DESTINATION SERIES: EUROPE	35.00
AUTOMAP ROAD ATLAS V3.0	59.00
BODY ILLUSTRATED	49.00
CALENDAR CREATOR WINDOWS V2.0	45.00
EASY WORKING RESUME KIT V1.0	25.00
FAMILY TREE MAKER V1.0	45.00
FAMILY V1.0 FOR WINDOWS	39.00
HEALTH & DIET PRO FOR WINDOWS	35.00
HOME MEDICAL ADVISOR V3.0	39.00
HOME OFFICE ORGANIZER V1.0	27.00
LIVING TRUST BUILDER	59.00
MASTERCOOK II	32.00
MASTERCOOK PC WINDOWS	39.00
MODERN BRIDE WEDDING PLANNER	35.00
MS WORKS FOR WINDOWS V3.0	99.00
PHARMASSIST - FAMILY GUIDE TO MEDICINE & DRUGS	45.00
THE CARD COLLECTOR V3.0	32.00

SPREADSHEETS

123 FOR HOME	49.00
123 FOR WINDOWS V4.01	319.00
LOTUS 123 UPGRADE DOS OR WINDOWS	99.00
MS EXCEL FOR WINDOWS V5.0	319.00
MS EXCEL FOR WINDOWS V5.0 COMP. UPGRADE	127.00
QUATTRO PRO FOR DOS OR WINDOWS	49.00

UTILITIES

386 MAX V7.0	62.00
AFTER DARK FOR WINDOWS V2.0	35.00
CENTRAL POINT ANTIVIRUS V2.1	95.00
DISNEY SCREEN SAVER FOR WINDOWS	35.00
INSIDE SPORTS SWIMSUIT SCREENSAVER	25.00
JURRASIC PARK V1.0 SCREENSAVER	22.00
NORTON BACKUP V3.0 FOR WINDOWS	99.00
NORTON UTILITIES V 8.0	115.00
PC TOOLS FOR WINDOWS V2.0	99.00
PC TOOLS PRO V9.0	99.00
QEMM V7.0	62.00
STACKER V4.0	99.00
UNINSTALLER FOR WINDOWS	49.00

WORD PROCESSING

AMI PRO V3.01 UPGRADE	99.00
FACELIFT FOR WORDPERFECT V2.0..	65.00
FRENCH ASSISTANT V1.0 DOS OR WINDOWS	59.00
GERMAN ASSISTANT V1.0 DOS OR WINDOWS	59.00
ITALIAN ASSISTANT V1.0 DOS OR WINDOWS	59.00
MS WORD FOR WINDOWS V6.0	319.00
MS WORD FOR WINDOWS V6.0 COMP. UPGRADE	127.00
RIGHTWRITER V6.0	35.00
SPANISH ASSISTANT V1.0 DOS OR WINDOWS	59.00
WEBSTER'S ELECTRONIC DICTIONARY	65.00
WORDPERFECT V6.0 COMP. UPGRADE	127.00
WORDPERFECT V6.0 DOS OR WINDOWS	292.00
WORDPERFECT V6.0 VERSION UPGRADE	105.00

HARDWARE

ZOOM 14.4 INTERNAL FAX MODEM	95.00
MS MOUSE SERIAL PS/2 V2.0 2-BTN	89.00

PLEASE CALL FOR ANY PRODUCTS NOT LISTED

YEARN 2 LEARN

Snoopy and the Peanuts Gang invite you to join them in five great activities. Learn and practice Math, Geography, Reading, Coloring and have Fun too! Increasing difficulty levels challenge kids time and time again.

$35

3-D DINOSAUR

More than 30 bone-chilling, heart-stopping, head-spinning, eye-popping movies (6 in the disk version) in full color, high resolution video. All featuring digitized sound and pulse-quickening original music. Pass the popcorn!

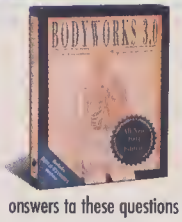
Disk $32
CD ROM $42

PHARMASSIST

From allergy pills to pain killers, there are thousands of different medicines on the market today. And a million different questions about how they work, when and how to take them, what side effects they might have and more.

Disk or CD $39

BODYWORKS 3.0



Do You Know... Where the coccyx is located? Which part of the brain controls motion? Why the flexor pollicis brevis muscle is important? You'll find the answers to these questions and many more when you explore BODYWORKS® 3.0 - An Adventure in Anatomy.

Disk or CD $39

Call Now For Our Free Catalog!

818 347 7500/fax 818 347 9977
20123 Nordhoff St., Chatsworth, CA 91311

CompuClassics
THE SOFTWARE EXPERTS
800 697-2006

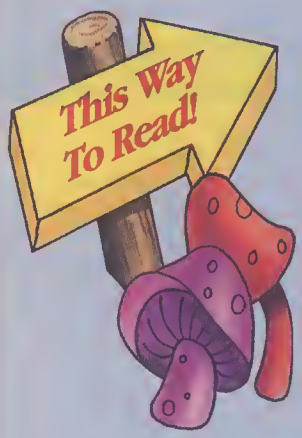
WHY GO ANYWHERE ELSE? WE CARRY OVER 10,000 SOFTWARE TITLES. ONE SHOP. ONE STOP.

U.P.S. Ground Shipping in the U.S. is $5.00 up to 7 lbs., and $.50/lb. thereafter. 2nd Day Air (U.S.) is $9.00 up to 7 lbs., and $1.00/lb. thereafter. Overnight delivery available. Defective software will be replaced immediately. Your credit card will not be charged until your order is shipped. We ship latest versions. Alaska, Hawaii, Puerta Rica, Int'l, FPO/APO call for shipping charges. Prices da fluctuate beyond our control and may change for better or worse. We accept VISA, MasterCard, Discaver, JCB and American Express. Please call (818) 347-9400 for an authorization number on returns. $5.00 C.O.D. charge. Order desk open 7 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday (PST), Saturday 10 am to 2 pm. 24-Hour FAX OrderLine.

9/94

The Learning Company®

A Lifetime Love of Learning Begins Here.



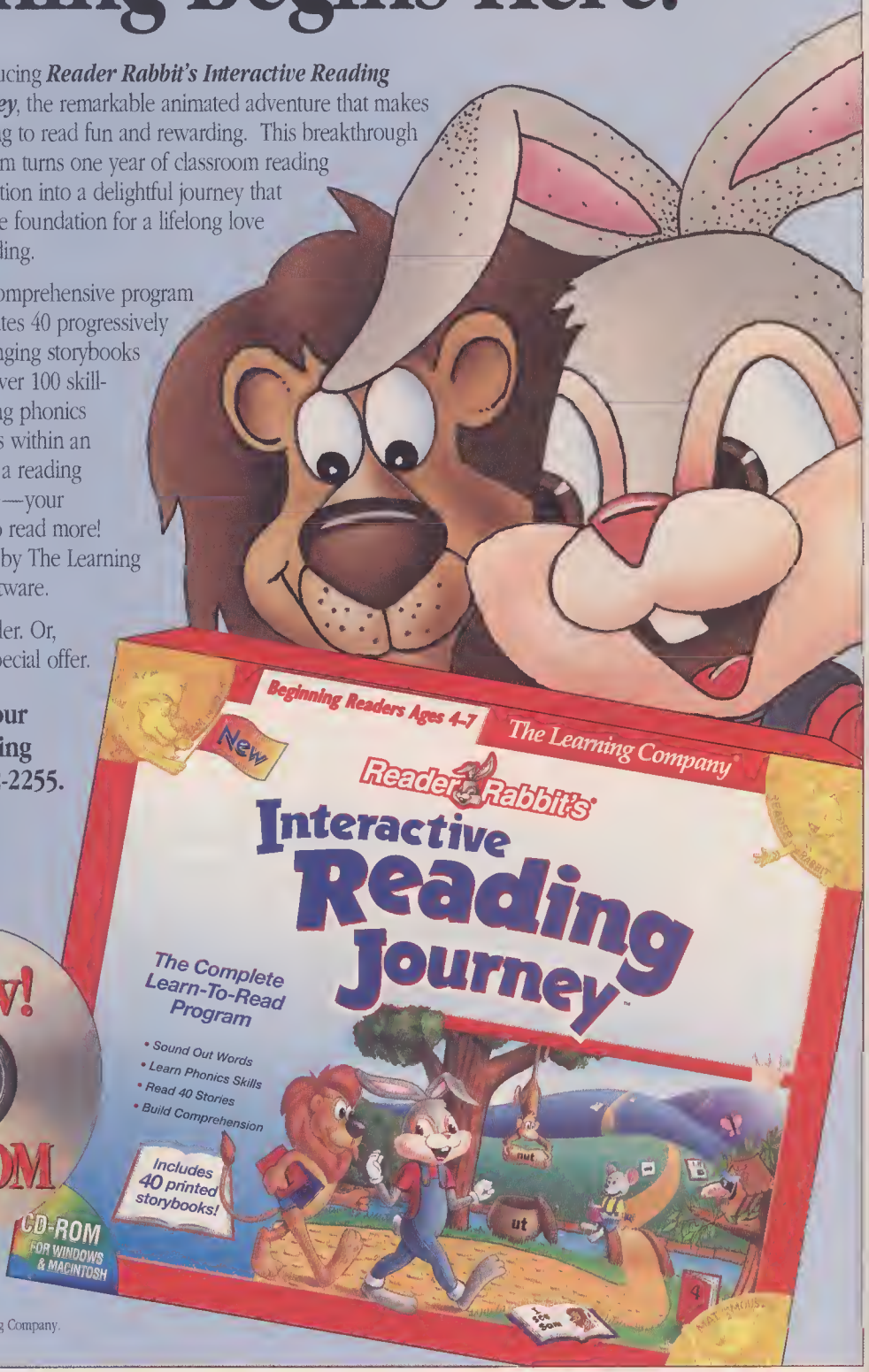
Introducing ***Reader Rabbit's Interactive Reading Journey***, the remarkable animated adventure that makes learning to read fun and rewarding. This breakthrough program turns one year of classroom reading instruction into a delightful journey that lays the foundation for a lifelong love of reading.

This comprehensive program integrates 40 progressively challenging storybooks with over 100 skill-building phonics lessons within an interactive playworld. The result is a reading program that lives up to its promise—your child will learn to read, and want to read more! And your satisfaction is guaranteed by The Learning Company, the leader in reading software.

Now available at your software dealer. Or, call The Learning Company for a special offer.

Satisfaction guaranteed or your money back. Call The Learning Company toll free: 1-800-852-2255.

Includes 40 printed storybooks from the software.



The Learning Company
6493 Kaiser Drive • Fremont • CA 94555

Copyright ©1994. All rights reserved. *Reader Rabbit* and The Learning Company are registered trademarks and *Interactive Reading Journey* is a trademark of The Learning Company.

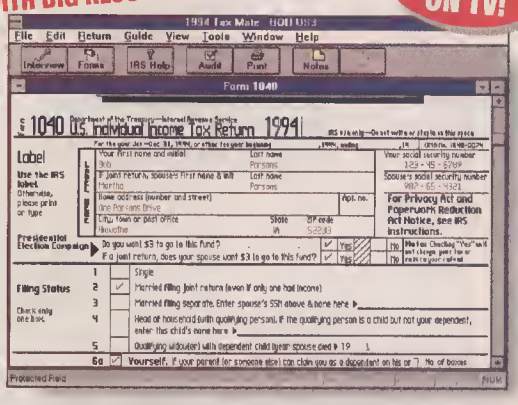
GUARANTEED CALCULATION ACCURACY– SEE DETAILS BELOW

FREE TAX SOFTWARE!

Now there's an easy and accurate way to complete your federal income taxes. Announcing Tax Mate™—tax preparation software that provides all you need to file your 1994 federal income taxes!

A SMALL DEDUCTION WITH BIG RESULTS!

AS SEEN ON TV!



Available for DOS and Windows (Windows version shown).

It has the forms you need.

Tax Mate includes the most commonly used forms and schedules, including Forms 1040, 1040A and 2441, and Schedules A, B, D, R and EIC. And all can be printed in an IRS-approved manner on your own paper. Print, sign and you're done!

It's easy to use.

It's easy to get started. Tax Mate acts like your own professional tax preparer and interviews you, guiding you through the process needed to accurately complete your return. Of course, if you need assistance, a comprehensive help system is a keystroke away. Plus, Tax Mate will evaluate your return and suggest specific strategies to minimize your tax bill!

It automatically audits your return.

Tax Mate automatically performs all necessary tax calculations eliminating costly errors. Like an accountant, it audits your return, letting you know where you left out information and flagging entries that are common IRS audit triggers.

Its calculations are guaranteed!

Rest easy with Tax Mate—all the calculations are guaranteed accurate! Should you be assessed an IRS penalty due to a calculation error resulting from a fault in Tax Mate, we—not you—will pay the IRS penalty!

It's brought to you by experts.

Brought to you by Parsons Technology—the company with over 7 years proven personal tax software experience and millions of completed returns—this exciting, FREE offer is our way of introducing you to the newest development in personal tax return preparation and to our family of over 50 high-performance products!

But best of all, it's FREE!

To take advantage of this amazing offer, pick up the phone or send/fax the attached coupon. Tax Mate is FREE—all you do is pick up the $8.95 shipping and handling charge! Doing your taxes has never been easier!

Order today! Call toll free

☎ 1-800-4-TAX-MATE

(1-800-482-9628)

24 hours a day, 7 days a week, fax your order 1-319-395-7449 or mail the coupon to Parsons Technology.

PARSONS TECHNOLOGY

The personal tax software experts!

OFFER LIMITED TO THE FIRST 250,000 ORDERS!

YES! Please send me Tax Mate for ~~$39~~ FREE*!

*Offer limited to the first 250,000 orders. *Add $8.95 for shipping and handling†. Includes User's Guide & Expert Technical Support. Ships in late December!*

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone (___) _____ Evening (___) _____

Version: ❑ DOS ❑ Windows **Disk Size:** ❑ 3.5" ❑ 5.25" **Density:** ❑ High ❑ Low

We will ship LD 5.25" DOS disks if boxes are unmarked.

Method of Payment: ❑ MasterCard ❑ Discover ❑ American Express ❑ Visa ❑ Check or Money Order

Card # _____ **Exp.** _____ **(no purchase order please)**

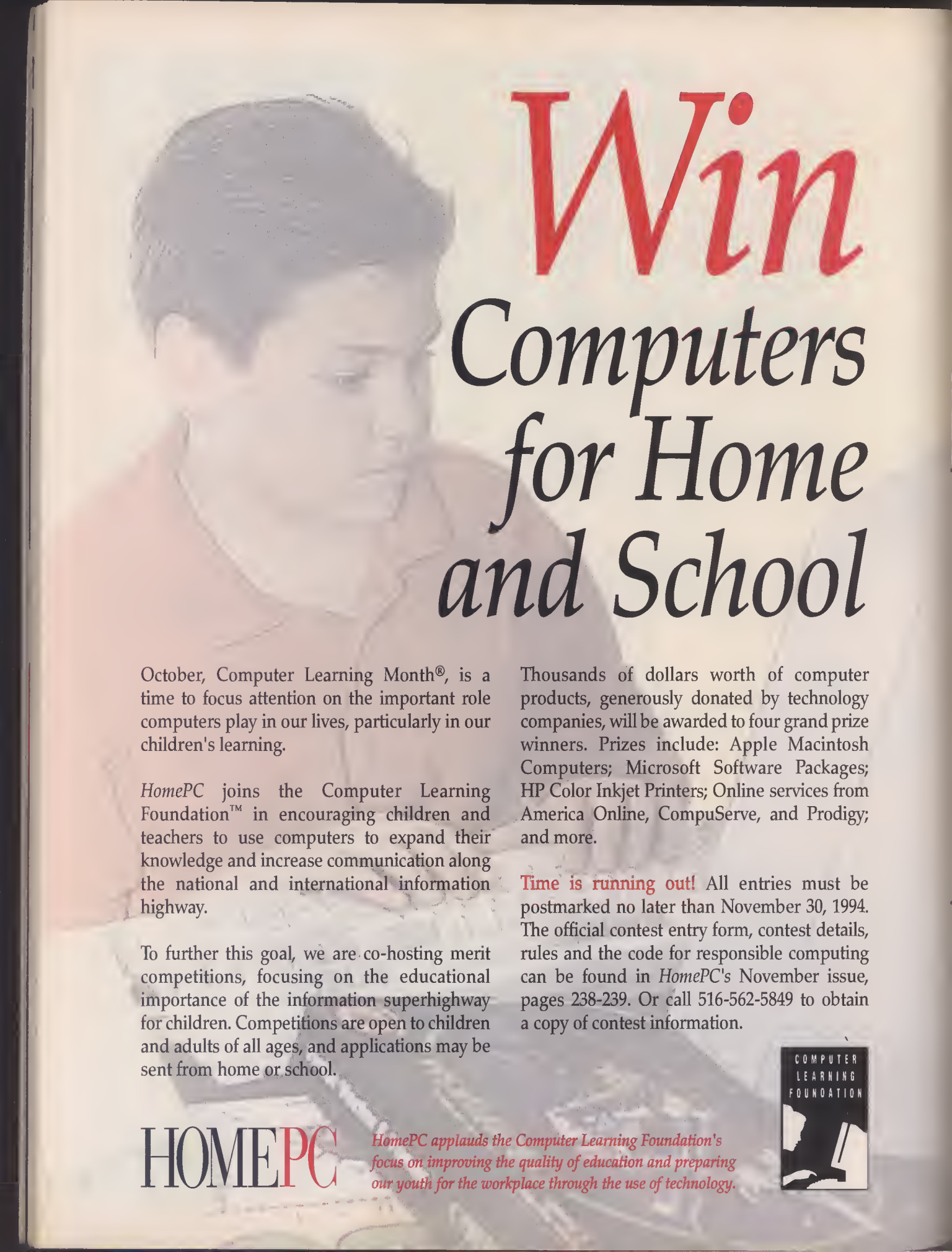
❑ Just send me your FREE software catalog!

Your priority code is **521294M**

Parsons Technology • Product Development Center
One Parsons Drive • PO Box 100 • Hiawatha, IA 52233-0100

MICROSOFT® WINDOWS™ COMPATIBLE

Tax Mate requires an IBM® or compatible PC with 640K, DOS 3.0 or later and a hard drive with 3MB free disk space. Tax Mate for Windows requires an IBM® or compatible PC running Microsoft® Windows 3.1 or higher, 2MB RAM and a hard drive with 3MB free disk space. Works with all monitors and printers. Copyright © 1993, 1994 Parsons Technology, Inc. All rights reserved. Tax Mate is a trademark of Parsons Technology, Inc. All trademarks or service marks designated as such are marks or registered marks of their respective owners. †Shipping and Handling charge is non-refundable.



Win Computers for Home and School

October, Computer Learning Month®, is a time to focus attention on the important role computers play in our lives, particularly in our children's learning.

HomePC joins the Computer Learning Foundation™ in encouraging children and teachers to use computers to expand their knowledge and increase communication along the national and international information highway.

To further this goal, we are co-hosting merit competitions, focusing on the educational importance of the information superhighway for children. Competitions are open to children and adults of all ages, and applications may be sent from home or school.

Thousands of dollars worth of computer products, generously donated by technology companies, will be awarded to four grand prize winners. Prizes include: Apple Macintosh Computers; Microsoft Software Packages; HP Color Inkjet Printers; Online services from America Online, CompuServe, and Prodigy; and more.

Time is running out! All entries must be postmarked no later than November 30, 1994. The official contest entry form, contest details, rules and the code for responsible computing can be found in *HomePC*'s November issue, pages 238-239. Or call 516-562-5849 to obtain a copy of contest information.

HOMEPC

HomePC applauds the Computer Learning Foundation's focus on improving the quality of education and preparing our youth for the workplace through the use of technology.

COMPUTER LEARNING FOUNDATION

Adventures in Sight and Sound

ANIMEDIA!

The Virtual Expedition
The Multi-Animedia Kit
Compton's Encyclopedia
The Mayo Health Clinic
The 7th Guest
Sound Impressions
Recording Sessions
List Price $499

$339

Over a Dozen More Multi-Animedia Packages to choose from!!! Call For More!!!

The Multi-Animedia Kit

- Double Speed CD ROM
- 'Macaw' 16 bit Sound Card
- Deluxe, High-Quality Amplified Speakers
- AC Adapter
- Quality Headphones

The Super Safari
The Multi-Animedia Kit
Compton's Encyclopedia
The Mayo Health Clinic
The 7th Guest
Sound Impressions
Recording Sessions
Cookbook Heaven
PC Karaoke
Where in the World is Carmen San Diego
Microphone Included!
List Price $599

$389

Free 2-day Delivery Anywhere in the US!!!

Holiday Special! Order Now and Save! 1-800-506-3009

The high-quality, multi-featured Macaw 16 bit Sound card is the audio solution to your multimedia needs. Among it's many features are:

- 16-bit CD-quality WAVE audio up to 48 KHz in stereo
- AdLib/Microsoft WSS/MPU-401/Sound Blaster **Pro** Compatability
- Wavetable Option
- Karaoke Feature
- 'Hot Key' Volume control

Made in USA

Select From a Wide Variety of Multimedia Products

Macaw 16 bit sound card
Macaw 16 bit sound card w/ wavetable synthesis
Double Speed CD ROM Drives
Quad Speed CD ROM Drives
High Performance PCI SCSI Controllers
Multimedia Stereo Speakers
Numerous CD ROM Titles

ANIMEDIA!

4487 Technology Dr. ,Fremont, CA 94538
(510) 659-8440 Fax:(510)659-8449
Email: animedia! @ jcis.com

We offer a complete line of multimedia products, from Upgrade Kits to complete systems. The sleek, modern design of the multimedia system above is ideal for the individual with limited desktop space. Animedia! is commited to providing our customers with the highest quality products at competitive prices. For further information regarding Animedia! products, give us a call!!!.

A division of JCIS

Take a quick look around Main Street.

Presenting the WordPerfect Main Street *"Taking it to the Streets"* Mall Tour

Get your hands on the latest WordPerfect has to offer for personal productivity, home education and family entertainment. WordPerfect's Main Street *"Taking it to the Streets"* tour is coming to a shopping mall near you.

Prestonwood Town Center
Dallas, TX.....*October 28-30*

Town & Country Center
Houston, TX.....*November 4-6*

Arrowhead Towne Center
Glendale, AZ.....*November 11-13*

Parkway Plaza
San Diego, CA.....*November 18-20*

Los Cerritos
Cerritos, CA.....*December 2-4*

Santa Anita Fashion Park
Arcadia, CA.....*December 9-11*

Puente Hills Mall
City of Industry, CA.....*December 16-18*

Oakridge Mall
San Jose, CA.....*Dec. 30-Jan. 1*

Downtown Plaza
Sacramento, CA.....*January 6-8*

Solano Mall
Fairfield, CA.....*January 13-15*

Clackamas Town Center
Portland, OR.....*January 20-22*

Northgate Shopping Center
Seattle, WA.....*January 27-29*

WINDOWS Magazine and *HomePC* are proud to be co-sponsors of this event.
For more information, please call 800-451-5151.

WINDOWS MAGAZINE

WordPerfect Main Street.
Bringing the best home.

HOMEPC

Portraits of American Presidents

Take A Multimedia Adventure Through American History That You'll Never Forget!

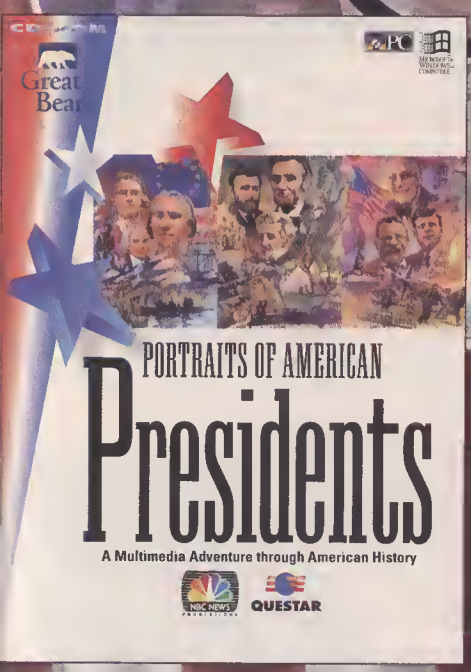
Full motion NBC News Video, live recordings, photographs and more will let you see, hear and learn about American History through the eyes of our 42 U.S. Presidents. It's all here in one fun, interactive CD-ROM.

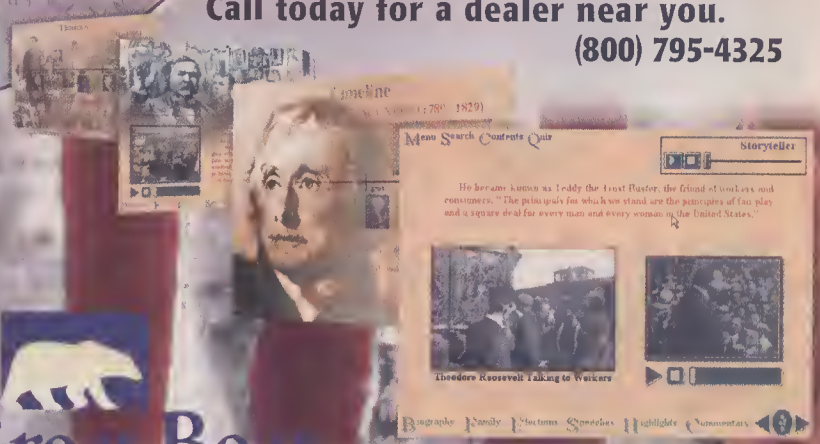
No history text book can compare. With dynamic Timelines and specific information buttons, you'll find remarkable facts, in depth commentary, landmark historical events, famous speeches and more, right at your fingertips.

Challenge Your Family. A Trivia Quiz adds fun and makes it easy to remember facts and events. A must-have program to create top-notch reports, get grade "A" homework, or simply to enjoy History. A fun, exciting learning tool for everyone, regardless of age!

Portraits of American Presidents: SRP $59.95
Great Bear Software and Healthsoft.

Call today for a dealer near you.
(800) 795-4325





Great Bear

Great Bear Technology Incorporated, 1100 Moraga Way, Moraga, CA 94556 (510) 631-1600 fax (510) 631-6735
Distributors, Dealers, and OEM inquiries welcome

CATCH THIS!

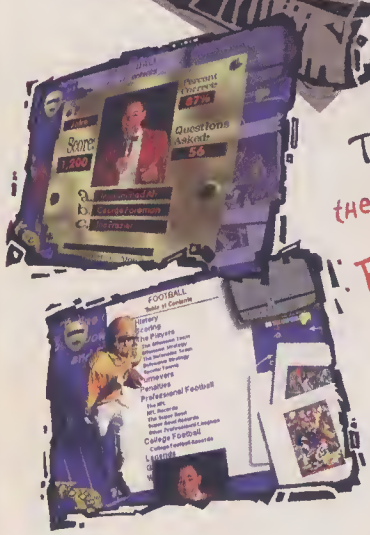
NEW FROM Sports Illustrated FOR KIDS®

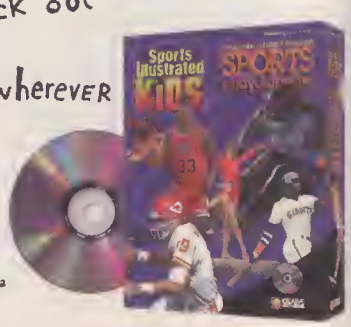
It's a mouse, get it?

Sports

The Sports Illustrated for Kids® the Everything You Want To Know About Encyclopedia© CD-ROM gives you facts and figures on more than 50 different sports. This is no ordinary sports encyclopedia. It's an interactive CD-ROM with over 700 photos, more than 500 trivia questions, and lots of live-action video from pro baseball, basketball, football, hockey and more. Check out all the info on all your favorite sports heroes. Available now wherever CD-ROMs are sold, or call 1-800-760-4093.

(SOURCE: HPC-11)





CREATIVE MULTIMEDIA

Copyright © 1994 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Sports Illustrated For Kids is a registered trademark of Time Inc. Used with permission. Copyright © 1994 Creative Multimedia. All rights reserved.

Free in the box through 12/31/94 Complete Professional Paint and Graphics Program

$129

Get it done while having fun

Design greeting cards ▾ Trace animation ▾ Draw freehand ▾ Create computer art ▾ Layout a kitchen ▾ Design landscape

Physical Information:

Active area	5"x 5"
Dimensions	8"x 9.5" to 0.5" sloped
Weight	1.05 lbs
Tilt angle	3.7°

Functional Information:

Resolution	Up to 2000 lines per inch (lpi)
Operating System	MS DOS, Macintosh, Microsoft Windows 3.x, Pen DOS

Acecat II™

The familiar feel of a pen

Where you point on the tablet is where you are on the screen. No more awkward rolling around. And it's so easy to install and use, getting started with computing is a cinch. Plus ACECAT II will co-exist with your mouse – until you're ready to make the all-in-one input choice.

Work with greater ease and comfort

No more hunching over the desk. Just place our lightweight tablet in your lap, put your feet up, and have fun.

Create images in a snap

It's easy to draw, trace, or create artwork. And it's so simple, computer users of all ages quickly catch on.

ACECAT II and the Windows environment

This is where the ACECAT II really shines. Customize your tablet and pointing & selecting are as easy as a slight wrist movement. Ergonomically designed with direct one-to-one motion.

Also a high-end digitizer

Don't be fooled by the fun and ease of use – it's a powerful design tool. Create sophisticated CAD drawings, architectural blueprints, and engineering specs.

ACECAD®

800-676-4ACE or 408-655-1900

Try the ACECAT II at CompUSA, Computer City, EGGHEAD, FRY's, Incredible Universe

Advertisement

900 MHz breakthrough!

New technology launches wireless speaker revolution...

Recoton develops breakthrough technology which transmits stereo sound through walls, ceilings and floors up to 150 feet.

Breakthrough wireless speaker design blankets your home with music.

By Charles Anton

If you had to name just one new product "the most innovative of the year," what would you choose? Well, at the recent *International Consumer Electronics Show*, critics gave Recoton's new wireless stereo speaker system the *Design and Engineering Award* for being the "most innovative and outstanding new product."

Recoton was able to introduce this whole new generation of powerful wireless speakers due to the advent of 900 MHz technology. This newly approved breakthrough enables Recoton's wireless speakers to rival the sound of expensive wired speakers.

Recently approved technology. In June of 1989, the *Federal Communications Commission* allocated a band of radio frequencies stretching from 902 to 928 MHz for wireless, in-home product applications. Recoton, one of the world's leading wireless speaker manufacturers, took advantage of the FCC ruling by creating and introducing a new speaker system that utilizes the recently approved frequency band to transmit clearer, stronger stereo signals throughout your home.

Crisp sound throughout your home. Just imagine being able to listen to your stereo, TV, VCR or CD player in any room of your home without having to run miles of speaker wire. Plus, you'll never have to worry about range because the new 900 MHz technology allows stereo signals to travel over distances of 150 feet or more through walls, ceilings and floors without losing sound quality.

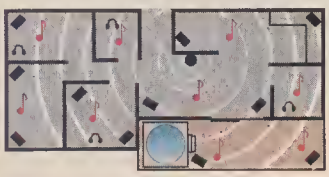
One transmitter, unlimited receivers. The powerful transmitter plugs into a headphone, audio-out or tape-out jack on your stereo or TV component, transmitting music wirelessly to your speakers or headphones. The speakers plug into an outlet. The one transmitter can broadcast to an unlimited number of stereo speakers and headphones. And since each speaker contains its own built in receiver/amplifier, there are no wires running from the stereo to the speakers.

Full dynamic range. The speaker, mounted in a bookshelf-sized acoustically constructed cabinet, provides a two-way bass reflex design for individual bass boost control. Full dynamic range is achieved by the use of a 2" tweeter and 4" woofer. Plus, automatic digital lock-in tuning guarantees optimum reception and eliminates drift. The new technology provides static-free, interference-free sound in virtually any environment. These speakers are also self-amplified; they can't be blown out no matter what your stereo's wattage.

150 foot range through walls!

Recoton gives you the freedom to listen to music wherever you want. Your music is no longer limited to the room your stereo is in. With the wireless headphones you can listen to your TV, stereo or CD player while you move freely between rooms, exercise or do other activities. And unlike infrared headphones, you don't have to be in a line-of-sight with the transmitter, giving you a full 150 foot range.

The headphones and speakers have their own built-in receiver, so no wires are needed between you and your stereo. One transmitter operates an unlimited number of speakers and headphones.



Recoton's transmitter sends music through walls to wireless speakers over a 75,000 square foot area.

Stereo or hi-fi, you decide. These speakers have the option of either stereo or hi-fi sound. You can use two speakers, one set on right channel and the other on left, for full stereo separation. Or, if you just want an extra speaker in another room, set it on mono and listen to both channels on one speaker. Mono combines both left and right channels for hi-fi sound. This option lets you put a pair of speakers in the den and get full stereo separation or put one speaker in the kitchen and get complete hi-fi sound.

These wireless stereo headphones have a built-in receiver.

Factory direct savings. Our commitment to quality and factory direct pricing allows us to sell more wireless speakers than anyone! For this reason, you can get these speakers far below retail with our 30 day *"Dare to Compare"* money-back guarantee and full one year manufacturer's warranty. For a limited time, the Recoton transmitter is only $69. It will operate an unlimited number of wireless speakers priced at $89 and wireless headphones at $59 each. Your order will be processed in 72 hours and shipped UPS.

Recoton Transmitter (you must have a transmitter to operate speakers and headphones).....**$69** $4 S&H

Wireless products compatible with the Recoton transmitter:

Recoton Wireless Speaker.....**$89** $6 S&H

Recoton Wireless Headphones.....**$59** $4 S&H

Please mention promotional code **161-HG1105.**

For fastest service call toll-free 24 hours a day

800-992-2966

To order by mail send check or money order for the total amount including S&H (VA residents add 4.5% sales tax). Or charge it to your credit card by enclosing your account number and expiration date. Send to:

COMTRAD INDUSTRIES

2820 Waterford Lake Drive Suite 106
Midlothian, Virginia 23113

AWARD WINNING WIRELESS SPEAKER

Built-in receiver and amplifier:

The wireless speaker and headphones both contain a built-in receiver and amplifier. Signals are picked up and transmitted as far as 150 feet away through walls without the use of wires.

Individual left, right & mono switch and Individual bass boost control (on back)

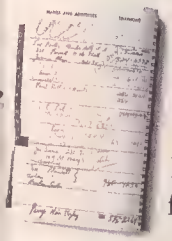
Size: 9"H x 6"W x 5.5"L
Signal-to-noise ratio: 60 dB
Channel Separation: 30 dB
Two-way bass reflex design
10 watts/channel RMS amps
Frequency Response:
50 Hz-15 KHz

Don't take our word for it. Try it yourself. We're so sure you'll love the new award-winning Recoton wireless speaker system that we offer you the **Dare to Compare Speaker Challenge.** Compare Recoton's rich sound quality to that of any $200 wired speaker. If you're not completely convinced that these wireless speakers offer the same outstanding sound quality as wired speakers, simply return them within 30 days for a full "No Questions Asked" refund.

Recoton's Design and Engineering Award

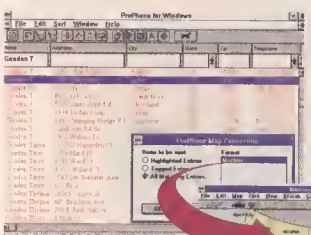
Home for the Holidays!

Look Up, Find, Locate, Call, Download, Map and Mail with these Amazing Phonebooks on CD-ROM!



Dig out that old address book. Your friends may have moved but now you can find them!

Here's a great gift for yourself, friends or family. Give them Home Phone – 10,000 phonebooks on CD-ROM! Imagine being able to look up friends who've moved out of state, find lost relatives, track down family or look through a yearbook to locate old school buddies! If ever there was a perfect gift for the holidays, it's Home Phone!



With Home Phone you'll be able to find anyone and even see where they are located on the map!

Includes... UPDATE FREE CERTIFICATE

homePHONE™

- 2 CD-ROM Discs with more than 70 million residentiol listings keyed in from US white poge directories notionwide
- Seorch for individuols by name notionwide or you con limit your seorch to o specific city, state, zip code or areo code
- Lets you mop listings for o picture of where they ore
- Saves on directory ossistonce chorges
- Includes outodiol copobility for use with modem
- Permits wild cord seorch
- Outputs listings os moiling lobel, in delimited ASCII or .dbf formot

directPHONE™

- 2 CD-ROM Discs with over 80 million business and residentiol white page listings
- Allows you to seorch by name ond then limit your seorch to ony oddress, city, state, zip, or oreo code

selectPHONE™

- Complete reverse seorch phonebook on CD-ROM with 80 million white page directory listings–72 million residential, 8 million business listings
- Look up, tog and download unlimited listings by nome, address, city, stote, zip, oreo, business type or SIC code

Other phonebooks restrict downloading or charge with a meter. These phonebooks offer unlimited downloading and unlimited usage.

freePHONE™

AT&T

- 1 CD-ROM featuring AT&T's Toll-Free Directory
- All Toll-Free numbers sorted under 2,700 business clossificotions
- Soves money on toll chorges

- Ideol for vaco-tion ond business travel plonning

PC MAGAZINE

"ProPhone is one of my favorite CD-ROM titles ... it's a great resource and a bargain to boot."
– Jim Seymour

Order Today – Call

CompuClassics

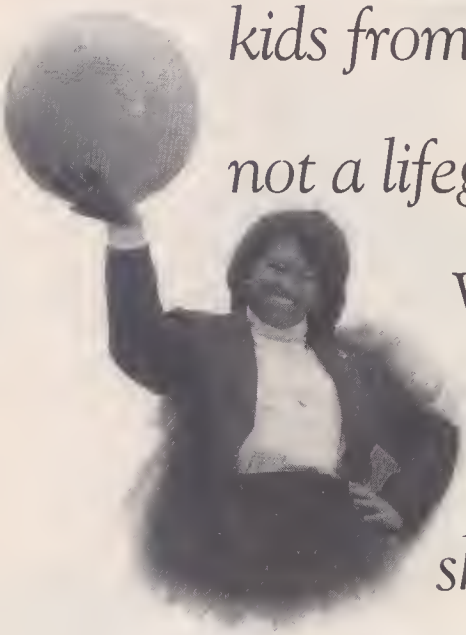
THE SOFTWARE EXPERTS

1-800-697-2006

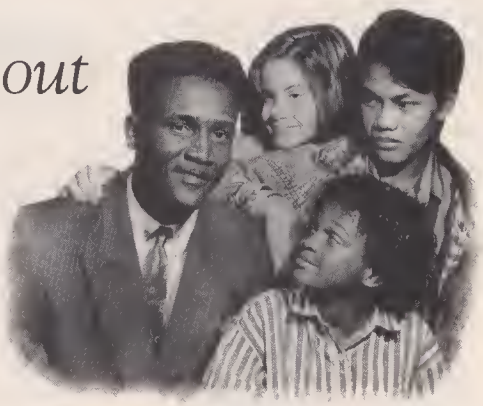
818-734-3800

FAX 818-734-3999

Bill Nave saved these kids from drowning, but he's not a lifeguard.



Verleeta Wooten found several new stars, but she's not an astronomer.



And Ivan Neal put out a lot of fires, but he's not a firefighter.

These are teachers. But to the kids they reach, they're heroes.

BE A TEACHER. BE A HERO.

Call 1-800-45-TEACH.

Ad Council
A Public Service of This Publication

Photos: Robin Sachs

Reach for the Power
TEACH
RECRUITING NEW TEACHERS, INC.

The Edutainment Company presents...

Software Your Kids Will Love!

New!

Sharks!

Witness the awesome speed, power, grace, and fury of one of nature's most mysterious creatures. The Discovery Channel presents this multimedia exploration full of fascinating video footage, stunning pictures, and voluminous text covering this frequently misunderstood species. A wonderful follow up to their best-selling "In the Company of Whales".

WIN,MAC CD-ROM **34.95**

The Edutainment Company brings you the best-selling children's educational software at unbeatable prices with our customer service pledge:

- Expert Consultation
- Satisfaction Guarantee
- Free Technical Support
- Discount Prices

CALL FOR A FREE CATALOG!

New!

My Computer Diary

Age 8 & Older

A treasured activity becomes a positive learning experience with this computerized diary for young girls. It includes a password for secrecy, a full-featured calendar, and a database of famous women.

WIN DISK **29.95** WIN CD **43.95**

The Quarter Mile

Age 5-18

This award-winning program presents over 13,000 problems on 30 math topics ranging from whole numbers to fractions, decimals, and percents - all this in a game-like car racing contest where you race against your own best answers!

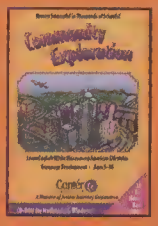
DOS DISKETTE **32.95**

Batter Up 2000!

Age 5-11

Practice math skills while playing baseball against robots from the future! You create the game using addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and fraction problems. Kids can play by themselves or with a friend.

WIN,MAC DISKETTE **24.95**



Community Exploration

Age 4-9

Kids will develop their English skills as they explore the many people, places, and objects around the town of Cornerstone. Point & click interactivity and digitized speech and sound keep the learning fun.

WIN/MAC CD-ROM **29.95**

New!

Explorer Pack

This is a collection of 10 full-length CD's for one great low price! It includes games, film clips, photo and sound libraries, fonts, an educational exploration of loons, a look at classic comedy, and more... something for everyone!

DOS,MAC CD-ROM **36.95**

Mathematical Masterpieces

Age 4-11

A fun collection of four challenging games that will help kids with basic concepts critical to their future success with math and problem solving.

WIN,MAC DISKETTE **19.95**

New!

Music Ace

Age 8 & Older

The friendly Maestro Max directs this colorful, engaging music education program using a series of 24 comprehensive lessons and a variety of fun and challenging games. A sound card is required.

DOS DISKETTE **39.95**

Buy 2 Davidson Titles, Get 1 Free!!

Call for information and pricing on all of Davidson's titles.

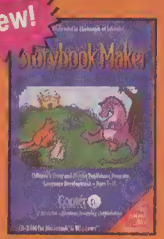
ALGE-BLASTER 3 - 35.95
FLYING COLORS - 35.95
MATH BLASTER 1 - 34.95
MATH BLASTER 2 - 34.95
READING BLASTER - 35.95
SPELL IT 3 - 29.95
THE CRUNCHER - 35.95
MM WORKSHOP - 46.95
PERFECT RESUME - 38.95
SAT TRAINER - 34.95
SPEED READER - 32.95
WORD ATTACK 3 - 29.95

Davidson's Kid Tools

This best-selling series of creativity tools for kids has something to offer for all ages. Kid Keys is the magical typing tutor that develops early reading skills for children age 4-8. Kid Works 2 is a creativity kit that writes, paints, and talks so that kids age 4 to 10 can create their own storybooks. Kid CAD is an amazing 3-D building and design kit that children age 7 and older can use to design and build houses, forts, gazebos, and all sorts of other structures using electronic building blocks.

KID CAD WIN,DISK **29.95**
KID KEYS MAC,DOS,DISK **19.95**
KID WORKS 2 MAC,DOS,WIN,DISK,CD **35.95**

New!



Storybook Maker

Age 4-9

Kids can create and print their own stories by choosing from the many scenes and picture cards available and then adding their own text. They can even hear the computer tell the story or record their own voices.

WIN/MAC CD-ROM **29.95**

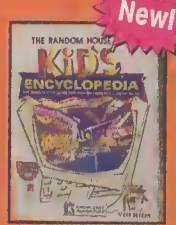
Science for Kids: Tools & Gadgets

Age 5 & Older

This multimedia disc is packed with activities that encourage kids to explore the workings of simple machines. Newly adapted from a popular series used in schools.

DOS,MAC CD-ROM **43.95**

New!



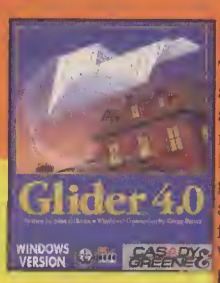
The Random House Kid's Encyclopedia

Age 7-12

This multimedia encyclopedia designed just for kids offers over 2,000 articles, 150 movies, a unique scrapbook to help with homework, and challenging puzzles and games. It covers a broad range of subjects.

WINDOWS CD-ROM **39.95**

Only $4.00 shipping & handling charge for one item, or $6.00 for two or more items. If you can't find what you are looking for or you have questions about your hardware compatibility, please call. We offer hundreds of non-violent Edutainment titles for children and adults on diskette and CD-ROM. Please call to receive our free catalog. School purchase orders are welcome.



Glider 4.0

This popular and highly addictive game entails flying a paper glider through 60 rooms of an old mansion. Each room is a puzzle to navigate which holds surprises and strange challenges. Good for hours of non-violent fun!

WIN,MAC DISKETTE **34.95**

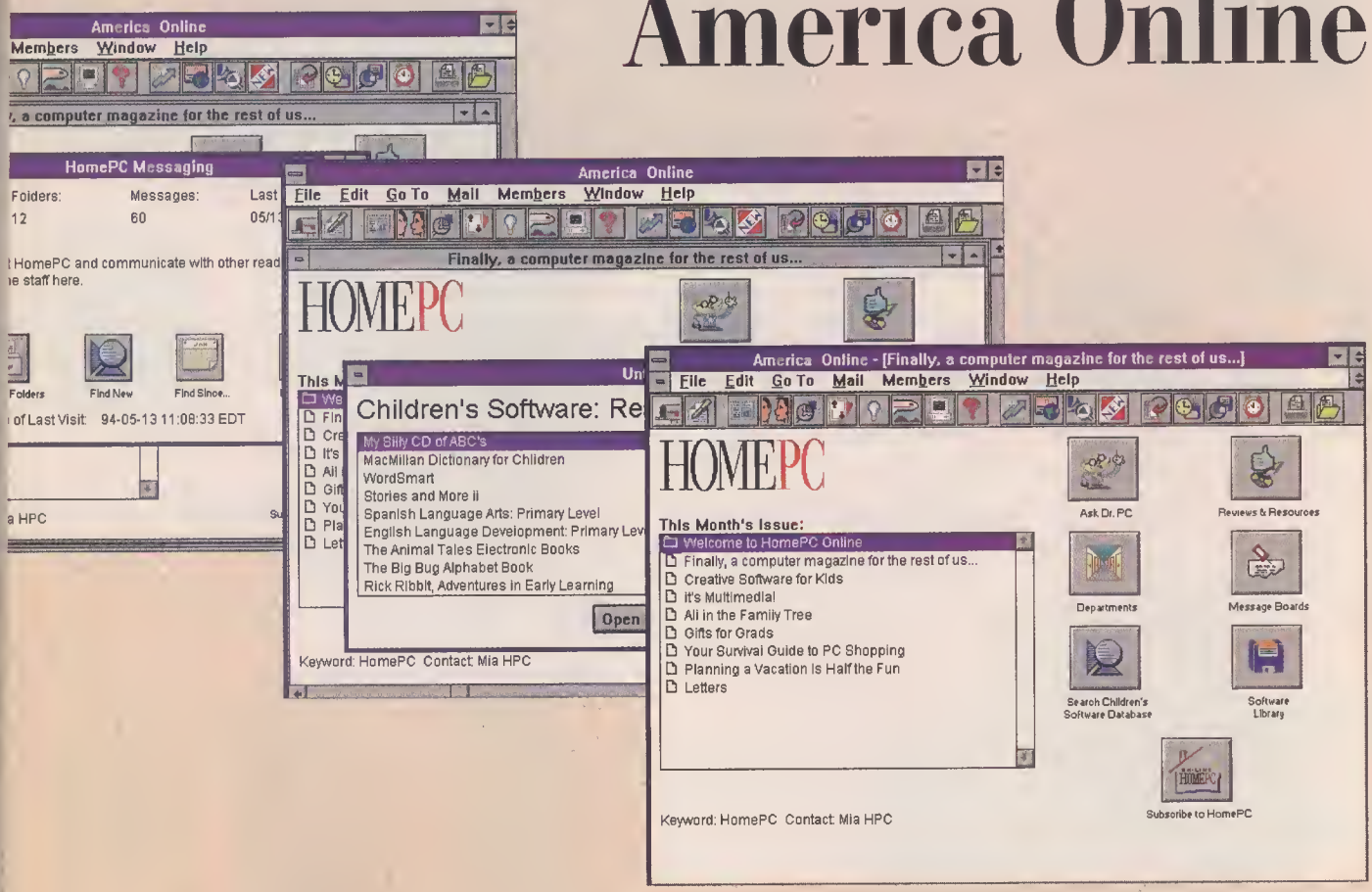
ORDERING IS SO EASY

CALL 1-800-338-3844

The Edutainment Company 932 Walnut Street, Louisville, CO 80027 303-661-0799 Fax 303-661-9303

30 DAY SATISFACTION GUARANTEE

Keep in touch with HOMEPC editors through America Online



Ask hardware, software and online questions and share valuable insight into your own PC experiences. America Online provides a perfect forum for you to communicate interactively with *HomePC* editors and other readers.

Through America Online, the nation's fastest-growing provider of consumer online services, subscribers can access current and back-issue editorial content from *HomePC*. Post messages for editors, find out about the best children's software, and access the latest product reviews.

You'll get all the information you need to use your PC for entertainment, education, finance and personal productivity. All at the touch of a button. When you call AOL to sign up, say you saw it in *HomePC*—you'll receive a free customized sign-on disk.

HOMEPC

AMERICA Online

Contact *HomePC* editors through the America Online interactive area using the editor's first name followed by HPC. America Online members can reach *HomePC* by selecting Keyword from the GoTo menu and typing *HomePC*, or clicking on the Departments button of the welcome screen, then clicking on the Newsstand button and then on *HomePC*. If you would like information about America Online, call 800-827-6364.

An **exciting section** *where you'll* **discover** *a world of* **inviting** *products to fulfill your demands and wish lists.*

the HOMEPC connection

Products that will help you gain **maximum productivity** *as you work, and peak enjoyment as you learn, play and relax.*

Just look for the **distinct** *red border and you'll find* THE HOMEPC CONNECTION.

Advertiser	Phone	Page
AdventureSource	313-953-8662	376
AlphaSport	800-850-3777	357
Americon Bible Soles	800-535-5131	358
Americon Institute for Computer Sciences	800-767-2427	358
AMTEX	613-967-7900	367, 369
BobyDoc	800-642-3543	373
Best Personalized Books	214-250-1000	359
BLOCS Software, Inc.	800-836-0047	361
Condelight Publishing	800-677-3045	359
Cormacon	800-822-6790	374
Centsible Software	800-908-4448	374
CH Products	619-598-2518	366
CLIPables	800-288-7585	360
Computer Gollery	800-317-0224	364
Consolidoted CD ROM	800-823-7667	364
CyberMedio	310-843-0800	373
CyberSoles, Inc.	800-288-6347	364
Designer Checks	800-239-4087	356
Desktop Dorlings	617-245-2073	361
Discovery Entertainment Software	800-217-4066	378
Edirol	800-380-2580	360
Fishpot Images	800-405-0036	360
Gronthom College	800-955-2527	358
Greatime Software	800-557-7788	377
Horvord Associates, Inc.	800-774-5646	375
Hefty Publishing Co., Inc.	800-732-3009	359
ICA Software	800-331-3065	363
Institute of Technicol Studies	800-948-7487	359
Kids CD-ROM Connection	800-994-0033	374
Kid's Advontoge	800-543-7181	376
KIDwore	206-721-2556	374
M & R Enterprises	800-800-8517	367
Mogee	800-662-4330	377
MicroDisk Services	800-624-7273 ext. 4057	366
Multimedia Logic	800-435-6442	364
NeoSoft Corp.	800-545-1392	365
PCDI	800-223-4542	358
Pixel Perfect	800-788-2099	373
QuiltSOFT	619-583-2970	366
Quinsept Inc.	800-637-7668	360
Reosonoble Solutions, Inc.	800-876-3475	362
Ruth's Recipes	800-846-7884	367
SRO Systems	909-337-7535	360
School-Age Software	916-791-0703	376
Smort Luck Softwore	800-876-4245	358
Softsporks	800-390-7971	374
Software Support Internotionol	800-356-1179	365
SongWright Software	800-877-8070	360
Surplus Software	800-753-7877	379
T.L.C.	800-852-8622	375
TES, Inc.	800-925-6853	378
The Home Learning Center	800-915-5515	362
TronsLonguoge Inc.	800-308-8883	362
Twelve Tone Systems	800-234-1171	361
Villos of the Coribbeon	800-238-4552	369
WinMicro Corporotion	800-538-6491	359, 364

HOT PRICES!

computer checks

QUICKEN, SIMPLY MONEY, MICROSOFT MONEY AND MANY MORE!

Designer CHECKS
P.O. Box 13387 • Birmingham, AL 35202

CONTINUOUS FEED CHECKS

Continuous feed checks are 9 1/2" wide (8 1/2" without lineholes) and load straight onto your tractor feed printer without moving your sprocket.

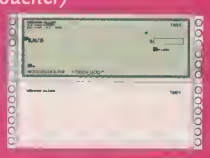
Business Size

Item	Single	Duplicate
250	$ 24.95	$ 39.95
500	37.95	54.95
1000	57.95	89.95
2000	89.95	149.95

Stop wasting time hand writing checks! Continuous and laser/inkjet checks are guaranteed bank compatible. Finest quality checks are available and at the best prices too! Available with or without file copy. Save additional time by using window envelope (A).

Business Size (with voucher)

Item	Single	Duplicate
250	$ 29.95	$ 44.95
500	41.95	62.95
1000	64.95	99.95
2000	99.95	169.95



Quality business checks that reflect your company image are available in the quantity and price that you require. Available with or without file copy. Bill payment is made easier by using window envelope (A).

Wallet Size (continuous feed)

Item	Single
250	$ 24.95
500	37.95
1000	57.95
2000	79.95

Wallet size checks are 6" wide and come with an adjoining stub to record your transactions. All of our checks are printed utiiizing the latest in printing technology to insure you the highest quality checks available. Use with window envelope (W).

Choose from 4 stylish colors!

Classic Blue | Gold | Green | Pink

LASER/INKJET CHECKS

Laser/inkjet checks come three to a page, measuring 8 1/2" x 11", and can be placed directly in your printer's paper tray. For printing one or two checks, order laser/inkjet check savers.

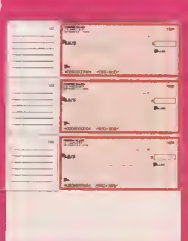
Item	Single
250	$ 29.95
500	42.95
1000	59.95
2000	88.95

Business Laser (with voucher)

Item	Single
250	$ 39.95
500	57.95
1000	79.95
2000	128.95

Wallet Size (laser/inkjet)

Item	Single
250	$ 24.95
500	39.95
1000	62.95
2000	89.95



CHECK SAVERS

Item	Price
Continuous Check Saver (set of 5)	$7.95
Single Sheet Check Saver (set of 5)	$7.95

The simplest, most cost effective way to stop form waste and spare accounting time. Check Saver saves the first form of a continuous string when feeding into impact printers and are reusable.

With laser Check Saver, laser and inkjet printers can now handle smaller single forms, like checks, labels, envelopes or odd-size documents. And remember, Check Saver is reusable!

DEPOSIT SLIPS

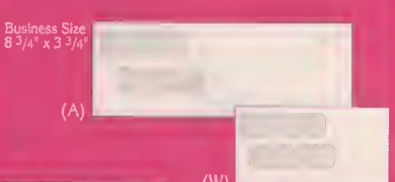
Item	Price
Deposit Slips (2 books of 100 each)	$12.95

Preprinted with your account number and name and address, to save you time. When ordering, please enclose one of your current deposit slips.

ENVELOPES

Double Window Envelopes

Don't waste time addressing envelopes! Guaranteed to work with your checks!



Item	Business & Wallet
250	$ 19.95
500	29.95
1000	44.95
2000	89.95

SOFTWARE COMPATIBILITY LIST

Quicken, QuickBooks, Accountant Plus, Andrew Tobias, At Once!, BACS, Business Sense, Certiflex, Chi-Soft, Click Bookkeeping, Dac Easy, Dollars & Sense, Evergreen, Flexware, Fred's Checkbook, Great American, Great Plains, H & E Computronics, Home Accountant, Hooper International, INTUIT, MacMoney, Managing Your Money, MCBA, Meca Software, Micro Associates, MicroBiz Corp., Microsoft "Money", MYOB, Money Matters, Monogram, Open Systems, Pacioli 2000, Peachtree Software, Rags To Riches, Realworld, Royal Software, SBT, Simply Money, Simply Accounting, Systems 1st, Time is Money, Total Systems

And many more!

If your software is not listed, call 1-800-239-4022 for compatibility information.
Software names are trademarks of their respective companies.

READ THIS FIRST:

Check Orders

1. Enclose a voided check from your existing check supply. Indicate any printing changes on the face of the voided check.
2. If you do not have a voided check or your account number is different from your voided check, ask your bank for a "Mail in Letter Sheet" and enclose it with your order.
3. All orders must include payment.
4. Customers in Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and all international customers must pay for Priority Shipping. Call for prices.
5. Checks will ship to the address shown on the check unless otherwise specified.

Deposit Slip Orders

1. Enclose a deposit slip from your existing deposit slip supply.

Check Re-Orders

1. Use Re-Order form in you last check order.
2. If you no longer have the re-order form, enclose sample voided check.
3. Please check one of the following:

☐ Print SAME as last order.
☐ Print with CHANGES as indicated on enclosed sample.

All Orders:
Your software: _____ Version: _____

ORDER FORM P07H0294

PAYMENT INFORMATION ☐Continuous ☐Laser
(All orders must include payment)
☐ VISA (13 or 16 digits) ☐ MasterCard (16 digits)
☐ Check enclosed (Payable to Designer Checks)

Credit Card Number: _____
Expiration Date: _____
Name on Credit Card: _____
Cardholder Signature: _____

Please check that you credit card number has been filled in completely.

ORDER INFORMATION

Item Description (Complete on Lines Below)	Color	Quantity	Starting Check Number*	Price

* If no starting number is indicated, 1001 will be used

Subtotal	
Sales Tax (Alabama residents add 8%)	
Shipping and Handling	$5.00
Order Total	

Note: All orders shipped in 7 working days

PLEASE SHIP TO:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State/Zip: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____

COMPLETE FOR FAX ORDERS ONLY

Please fax a copy of your voided check.
(PLEASE PRINT)
Bank Name: _____
Bank Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Bank Phone Number: _____
Bank Fractional Number: _____ Example: 22/999

Customer Service: 1-800-239-4087
Fax Order: 1-800-774-1118

Designer CHECKS
P.O. Box 13387 • Birmingham, AL 35202

COMPUTER CHECKS

Build Muscle And Strip Away Fat!

By Dr. Stephen Schueler

"In 8 weeks you can have rippling abs, muscular arms, a chiseled chest and awesome legs! How? Just follow the printouts!!"

MASTERLIFT WORKS FAST!!

It only takes eight weeks to build muscle and strip away fat. We can take just about any average American, like you, and in eight weeks provide you with the body of your dreams...100% guaranteed. With MASTERLIFT / NUTRA- POWER software, the fastest gains possible are computerized and graphed. Your individual data is fed into carefully researched "strength and conditioning" FORMULAS and in seconds your workout is designed by the computer.

MASTERLIFT WORKS FOR EVERYONE!

MASTERLIFT provides you a regimen that is specific to your body and gives you a printed plan for every aspect of diet and training. The results of using these plans are rapid muscle growth and fat loss!

NUTRAPOWER BRINGS OUT MUSCLE!!!

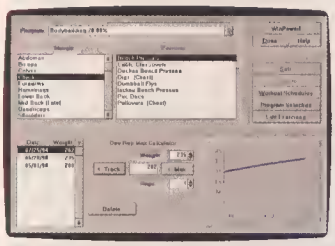
NUTRAPOWER sets up the careful balance between training and nutrition that is the key to your new body. NUTRAPOWER lets you break your own "Genetic Code" by making the perfect meal plans for you, with the exact % of Carbs, Proteins and Fats that you need to get "fiercely" muscular and "ripped"! NUTRAPOWER comes with fat-minimized meals pre-programmed! With these meals, or meals of your own making, your lean muscle mass is on for keeps!

Chicken Breast, Vegetables, Tuna, Fruit, Skim Milk, Pasta and Supplements...all pre-loaded and ready to go! Our hard core nutrition team has done the work for you!

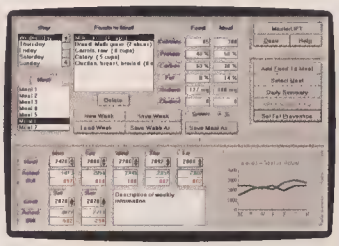
100% Guaranteed!

You can work with MASTERLIFT / NUTRAPOWER for 30 days at no risk. If you are not 100% satisfied, you can return it for an immediate and easy refund, no questions asked.

- ***Easy to use***
- ***100% better than "weight loss"***
- ***Works faster than any other known system!***
- ***Thousands in use!***
- ***Easy to understand!***

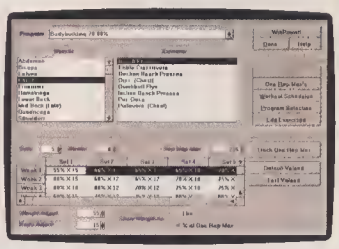


MasterLIFT. It's been called "The only scientific method of stripping body fat and creating intense muscle growth."



By carefully planning every aspect of your transformation, MasterLIFT will help you achieve a strong, lean physique!

Weight Training - No other method is as versatile, or as fast in delivering toned and lean muscle.



Following the right plan will make the difference between wasting your time...and achieving your dream physique!

MASTERLIFT SUPER BUNDLE

Only $59.95

NutraPower Nutrition
$54.95 *Purchased separately!*

MasterLIFT Virtual Workout
$54.95 *Purchased separately!*

Supplement Data Disk
$49.95 *Purchased separately!*

All for just $59.95

As you use MasterLIFT, you will quickly strip away layers of ugly fat and expose new, lean muscle mass.

3 Easy Ways To Order:

1-800-850-3777

1-800-850-3777
FAX (904) 656-1402

Mail to: AlphaSport 2528 Capital Circle S.E. Tallahassee, FL 32311

Min. Requirements: 386 w/4MB RAM / WINDOWS

WIN LOTTO!

GAIL HOWARD'S SMART LUCK©

SCIENTIFIC LOTTERY SYSTEMS

Won 39 Lotto Jackpots Worth $79.2 Million Dollars!

The ONLY Systems With *Documented* Jackpot Winners

LOTTO HOW TO WHEEL A FORTUNE

This 397-page book contains the world's most successful lottery systems including ALL the systems used by Gail's biggest Lotto jackpot winners. Has 162 systems with specific win guarantees. Easy to use as A-B-C. $22.50 ($19.50 + $3.00 S/H.)

ADVANTAGE PLUS™

• COMPLETE drawing results for ALL 62 5 & 6# Lottos FREE • Over 50 scientific charts and reports to zero in on winners • No other software has more scientific tools for picking winners • Detailed 62-page manual shows how to identify winning patterns • Automatic SMART PICKS™ selects best Lotto #s instantly • Use Advantage Plus™ and you'll trash all your other lottery software. A $295.00 value. Special Offer — limited time only $79.95 + $3.00 S/H

COMPUTER WHEEL™

• Easy to use scientific systems that reduce the odds • Has 252 Lotto wheeling systems with specific win guarantees • Wheels up to 40 of your Lotto numbers • Optimizing feature makes best possible sums of *your* chosen numbers • Tells how many times each number position is in the wheel • Saves up to 500 wheels for win checking • All flawless • Find one system that fails its win guarantee, and you get DOUBLE your money back! $39.50 + $3.00 S/H

ADVANTAGE PLUS™ AND COMPUTER WHEEL™

Save $20! Buy BOTH for only $99.95 + $3.00 S/H

We ship IBM/Comp. 5.25" unless you add $1.00 for a 3.5" disk (one per program).

1-800-876-4245

SMART LUCK® SOFTWARE

MasterCard VISA

Dept. E-2, P.O. Box 1519
White Plains, NY 10602

1-800-876-GAIL (4245) or 914-761-2333

Home Study

Computer Science ACCREDITED B.S. DEGREE

Our 44th year. B.S. degrees in computer science and other fields. All teaching is by home study. Grantham lesson materials. Personal help by mail, phone, fax, BBS.

You are a *class of one* when asking for assistance from your instructor, all included in the regular tuition. Professional software, no additional charge. Our emphasis is on teaching you computer science and guiding you to professional competence as well as your B.S. degree. Our degrees are accredited by the Distance Education and Training Council, Washington, DC.

Free Catalog: 1 (800) 955-2527

GRANTHAM
College of Engineering

34641 Grantham College Rd.
Slidell, LA 70469-5700

B.S. & M.S.

In Computer Science

Get the opportunity and earning power a college degree confers—without leaving home and spending thousands of dollars.

- ALL COURSES HOME STUDY.
- Increase your earning power.
- Approved for tuition reimbursement by leading corporations.
- Join students from leading computer companies.
- C++, Using Windows and Ada courses available.
- Career*Path* training in computer programming available.

For free information call :

1-800-767-AICS

ACCREDITED MEMBER WAUC WORLD ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITIES & COLLEGES

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR COMPUTER SCIENCES

Home study: earn great money:

BECOME A MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONIST!

Experienced transcriptionists can make up to $25,000 —*and more*—transcribing doctors' notes from tapes. Work in hospitals, MDs' offices, at home. **Free literature.**

800-223-4542

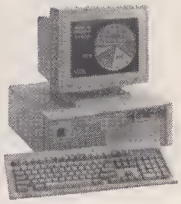
Name _____ Age ____

Address _____ Phone ( )

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

The School of Medical Transcription
PCDI, 6065 Roswell Road
Dept. YYG275, Atlanta, Georgia 30328

LEARN COMPUTERS!



Home study course. Be an expert on the PC for business or home use. Easy to follow: learn database, word processing, spreadsheets, much more. **Send or call for free career literature.**

800-223-4542

Name _____ Age ____

Address _____ Phone ( )

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

THE SCHOOL OF COMPUTER TRAINING
PCDI, 6065 Roswell Road
Dept. KKG275, Atlanta, Georgia 30328

BIBLE MASTER™

ΞNAS COMPUTER BIBLEΞ

software for IBM & MAC

Get them all together...

King James Version*
New Revised Standard Version
New International Version*
New American Standard Bible*

...the best selling translations!

...add on modules:

La Biblia de las Américas
NAS Hebrew/Greek Dictionaries*
NAS Cross References
NAS Topical Studies*
Treasury of Scripture Knowledge

... and free technical support!

*Also for Macintosh

American Bible Sales
870 South Anaheim Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92805

1-800-535-5131 NASB

Discount Prices!

FREE CATALOG

EARN YOUR COMPUTER SCIENCE DIPLOMA at HOME

© College Level Courses lead you to professional certification
© Unique program includes videos, textbooks, software, audio tapes
© Day/Night instructor assistance by phone, FAX or modem
© Learn to program in C, C++, Q-BASIC, VISUAL BASIC
© Other courses include:
INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS
WORD PROCESSING
SPREADSHEETS DATA BASE
OPERATING SYSTEMS
FILE PROCESSING
SYSTEM ANALYSIS

If you are serious about learning Computer Science....call

Institute of Technical Studies
1-800-9-ITS-ITS
Licensed and Bonded

MAKE MONEY WITH A COMPUTER!

Start A Business At Home Creating Personalized Books

- Disney, Warner Bros., Power Rangers, Barbie, Where's Waldo & NFL
- 30 Book Titles
- 500% Profit
- Business Cards, Clocks & Stationery
- Religious & Ethnic Themes
- Low Start Up

(214) 250-1000
FREE Book and Kit
BEST PERSONALIZED BOOKS
Best Plaza • 4201 Airborn • Dallas, Tx 75248

Make Money
Personalizing Children's Books

Create-A-Book®

- Use Your Home Computer
- No Experience Necessary
- Original Patented Processes
- Interactive Sticker Books
- Quality Handcrafted Books

McGruff • Thumbelina • Little Mermaid
Cabbage Patch Kids • Raggedy Ann

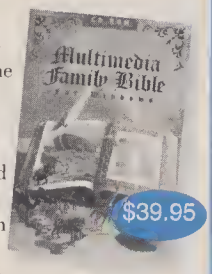
Leading the Industry for over 14 Years!

Largest Selection, Lowest Price
All in One Package!
1-800-732-3009

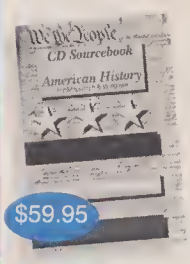
Enhance Your Multimedia Collection!

Multimedia Family Bible CD
Windows

- More than 40 narrated Bible stories accompanied by paintings by the great masters.
- Full-color photographs and maps.
- Topical study guide and Greek and Hebrew lexicon searchable with text of Bible.
- Entire text of red-letter King James Bible.

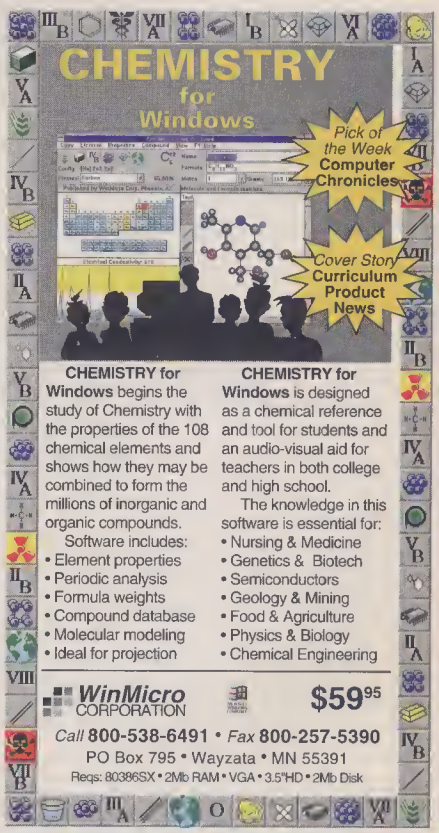


CD Sourcebook of American History



- Hundreds of primary and secondary source historical documents.
- Four multi-volume histories.
- More than 100 historical photographs and art.
- Everything fully searchable.

CANDLELIGHT PUBLISHING
Call Today
1-800-677-3045
FOLIO.



CHEMISTRY for Windows begins the study of Chemistry with the properties of the 108 chemical elements and shows how they may be combined to form the millions of inorganic and organic compounds.

Software includes:
- Element properties
- Periodic analysis
- Formula weights
- Compound database
- Molecular modeling
- Ideal for projection

CHEMISTRY for Windows is designed as a chemical reference and tool for students and an audio-visual aid for teachers in both college and high school.

The knowledge in this software is essential for:
- Nursing & Medicine
- Genetics & Biotech
- Semiconductors
- Geology & Mining
- Food & Agriculture
- Physics & Biology
- Chemical Engineering

WinMicro CORPORATION
$59.95
Call 800-538-6491 • Fax 800-257-5390
PO Box 795 • Wayzata • MN 55391
Reqs: 80386SX • 2Mb RAM • VGA • 3.5"HD • 2Mb Disk

Show Off!

PC Portraits™

screen saver slide show

That's right! Show off your favorite photos. Free PC Portraits for Windows (256 colors required) w/ purchase of 5+ photo scans.

* Fun new way to display your photos!
* Personalize your home and office.
* Add all the scanned photos you want, when you want.
* Free one year Scan Club membership.
* Unique gift idea (call for info).
* All Scans - Money Back Guaratee.

Show Off! Send your photos today!
$4/photo (5 photo min) + $3.50 SH.
Send photos (photos returned), check to
Fishpot Images
Dept H, Box 438, Ballwin, MO 63022

For Info Call 800-405-0036 7d/24hr
We offer a full line of scanning services!

Z-AXIS Animations

Personal 3-Dimensional Animations for Dos & Windows

Your name, company or message in a stunning, 256 color, full screen animated screensaver!

as low as $19.95

Write, call or Fax for a FREE Demo Disk

SRO Systems
Phone 909-337-7535
Fax 909-337-0575
P.O. Box 5028, Blue Jay, CA 92317

It's not just Apple and IBM that love and use Clipables

SPECIAL OFFER

But it is olso thousonds of desktop publishers, just like you. And it is eosy to see why. For Clipobles is the chosen **clipart** pockage of virtuolly every type of computer user: from smoll ond lorge businesses, to schools, newspapers, ond mogozines. Whether you ore doing menus newsletters, brochures or just fun flyers, you will be omozed ond delighted with more thon **1400** imoges Clipobles provides. But don't just toke our word for it. Give us o coll, and we will send you o **FREE** brochure. Then you con decide for yourself.

CLIPables

Home PC Readers Only: Clipables Main Library: ~~$250.00~~ / December Issue $69.00.

(800) 288 - 7585

FREE BUYER'S GUIDE!

Interactive Music for your PC or Mac

Now you can enjoy premium quality music on your computer. Choose from thousands of beautiful MIDI music arrangements on disks, sound modules, music & presentation software, MIDI Keyboards, mixers and speakers.

Give a popular family-oriented alternative to violent computer games.

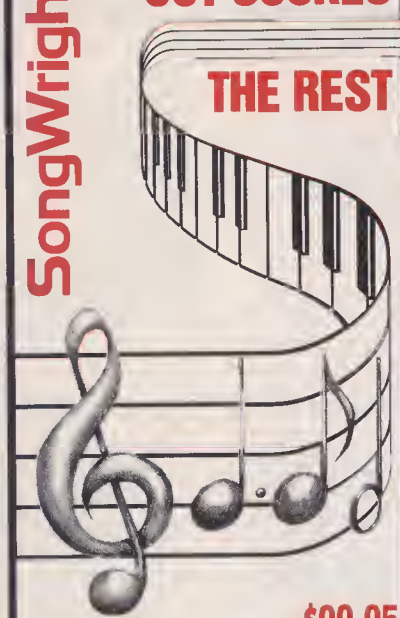
The Edirol Buyer's Guide will show you how pro-sounding Roland sound modules and innovative software can enhance creativity and musical experience in your home. Call Toll Free, to our 24 hour orderline at:

1-800-380-2580

EDIROL

"Desktop Music Presentation Products... Direct to you!"

SongWright OUT SCORES THE REST



"Impressive output... a solid list of features." An *Electronic Musician* survey proves SongWright the **BEST BUY** of all music notation software.

$99.95
(800) 877-8070
SONGWRIGHT SOFTWARE
(703) 777-7232
7 Loudoun Street, SE
Leesburg, VA 22075

Genealogy Software

Beginner? Advanced? We have the software for you! Easy to use. Money back guarantee. Call for FREE information package.

QUINSEPT INC.
P.O. BOX 216
LEXINGTON,
MASS. 02173

617-641-2930
800-637-7668

Put the Personal Back in Your PC

a unique gift under $15

Imagine loved ones — children, spouse, pets...you name it — right on your computer screen.

It's easy. Just send us any color or black & white photo with name, address, and phone. Include $10 plus $1.95 S&H. We'll produce a copy for you on disk— for use as desktop wallpaper, screen saver, or in your desktop publishing documents.

Allow 3-4 weeks delivery. Photo returned with disk. Call us today at 617-245-2073 for quantity discounts.

Order by 12/1 for gtd. xmas delivery

Desktop Darlings℠

25 Bonair Ave. Wakefield, MA 01880

Cakewalk

home studio™

Turn On, Play In, Print Out.

With **Cakewalk Home Studio™**, making music on your PC has never been easier.

Play along with MIDI files. Improve your musical skills. Create and print original compositions. Even add voice or sound effects to your MIDI tracks for multimedia presentations.

- 256-track MIDI sequencer for Windows 3.1
- Works with sound cards and MIDI instruments
- Staff view, piano roll, faders, tempo map, more
- Prints up to 16 staves per page
- Fast drag-and-drop editing
- Plays back digital audio wave files
- Includes Wave editor and CanvasMan™ software

"Now Only $129!"

To order, or for more information, call 800-234-1171 or 617-926-2480.

Demo pack $5. Song file collections and drum patterns also available.

Twelve Tone SYSTEMS

P.O. Box 760, Watertown, MA 02272

Home Manager™

Simple Software

50 Ways to Organize Your Life

from Medical Records to Little League

Easy to Install and Use

Built-in Help for any Question

Create Personalized Applications for those One-of-a-Kind Interests

Just $59.95

Simply call or write to place your order:

Call 1-800-836-0047

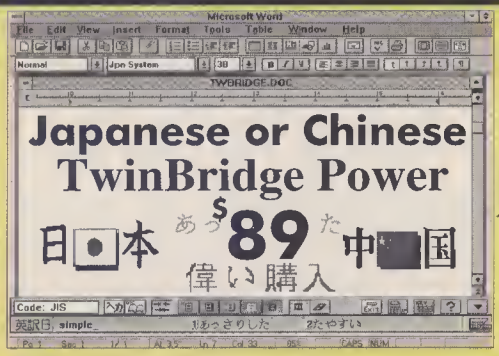
BLOCS Software, Inc.
P.O. Box 216 Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Home Manager™ is a product of BLOCS Software, Inc.
Requires hard drive, DOS 3.3+, 512 K memory. Also available for Windows™

MUSIC/HOME MANAGER/SCREEN SAVER

Foreign Language Software

Translators-Word Processors-Tutorials-Fonts & More!



Business Solutions

Wholesale Prices

Hard to find software

all Languages

Supports Over 100 Languages

ARABIC, CYRILLIC, E.EUROPEAN, W.EUROPEAN, GREEK, HEBREW, INDIAN, S.E.ASIAN, OTHERS CALL

~~$149~~ retail $69 special

40,000 Word/Phrase Translator
Chinese/Japanese True Type Fonts
Chinese/Japanese Word Processing

PC GOLD English русская Russian Translator ~~$279~~ retail $169 special!

FREE Cyrillic Windows Driver Inclu.

Automatically translates 600,000 Words and Phrases!
#1 English to Russian PC machine Translator in the World!

Great Deals !

- Chinese or Japanese Windows translation dictionary $29!
- Learn Russian, Japanese or French multimedia tutorial $29!
- Spanish to/from English machine translator for Windows $39!
- True Type Fonts- Hebrew, Russian, Greek& 50+ Languages $29!

FREE CATALOG
TransLanguage Inc.
Satisfaction Guaranteed

"Great Buys on language software you just can't find in retail stores"

800-308-8883

FREE CATALOG
PO Box 18024
Anaheim CA. 92807
Fax (714) 998-1296

EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE/LANGUAGE/SHAREWARE

America's Leading Source for
Educational Systems and Software

How do I know what works best for me and my family?
We take the guesswork out!

- Newest Computer Systems
- Latest Educational Software
  Math, Foreign Languages, Reading, Architecture, Etc.
- For Children, Teens and Adults
- Easy to Use
  Fast, Fun, Intelligent – the Best Way to Learn!
- Fully Supported and Guaranteed

Call for a free catalog! 800-915-5515

The Home Learning Center.

or write: 19800 MacArthur Blvd. Suite 700 • Irvine, CA 92715

Free Catalog!

Call: 1-800-876-3475

Reasonable Solutions'® affordable software for IBM PCs & compatibles.

- Best shareware available anywhere
- Hundreds of DOS & Windows programs for the entire family
- Always the latest versions
- Guaranteed Virus-Free
- Best technical support
- Lowest prices

Yes, please rush me a free catalog.

Name _____
Company _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
HPCM 11/94

Reasonable Solutions®, Inc. 1221 Disk Drive, Medford, OR 97501-6639
Phone (503) 776-5777 / FAX (503) 773-7803 / Orders (800) 876-3475

Call or fax 24-hours a day, or write for your free Reasonable Solutions® software catalog today!

COMPUTER SOFTWARE FOR YOUR HOME PC

Educational

Educational Pack
Two programs on four disks.

Games

Doom
Program contains four disks.

$9.95 each or 2 for $18.00

Desktop Publishing

Page Plus Intro
Program contains four disks.

Multi Media Kit Pack

Multimedia Maker
Program contains four disks.

New Year Pack

Includes all titles:

- **Freebies** — How to get free stuff!
- **What's In That Box?** — Computer hardware explained.
- **Quikmenu** — Graphical menu program.
- **PC-Learn** — Tutorial for all users.
- **Grin Graphics** — Quality graphics for your documents.
- **Pickle Wars** — Great new game to unwind with.
- **Explosive for DOS/Windows** — Best screen saver ever!

Call today to order

only $23.95

800-331-3065

For this ad only, 50% Off our regular catalog price!

ICA software
P.O. Box 272
Monroe, CT
06468-0272

Dare to compare! Call today for your FREE catalog.

ICA Software offers the highest quality shareware available to you on a RISK FREE basis. Simply type ICA to access the EZ installation and you're ready to go! We provide industry leading support for all the products we sell. If for any reason you're not completely satisfied with our software, return it within ninety days for a full refund. And remember, if you find a lower price for any of the shareware we carry, we'll beat it!

ICA software LOWEST PRICE GUARANTEE

If ordering by mail send check, money order or include your Visa/MasterCard number. Add $4 to order total for shipping and handling. Specify 3½" or 5¼" disk. Use of software programs beyond 30 days may require a separate payment to the author. ICA Software is a member of the Association of Shareware Professionals.

CD-ROMs IN ACTION™ VOLUME 1

66 min. VHS TAPE
"Sampler/Hardware"

Discover the World of CD-Rom And Multimedia!

Only $14.95

Become Informed BEFORE you buy CD-Rom & Multimedia Hardware or Software

- ***LIVE*** video of ***TOP selling CD-Rom Titles ACTUALLY RUNNING*** on a PC
- ***Informative*** Section on ***Buying*** & ***Using*** multimedia ***Hardware.***
- **Volume 1 reviews *Megarace, Tuneland, Myst, Compton's Encyclopedia, Comanche, Critical Path, 7th Guest,*** and others.

CHARGE BY PHONE:

1 - 800 - 435 - 6442

We Accept Visa, Mastercard, American Express & Discover cards

or send check or money order to:

Multimedia Logic™ - Dept. PC
P. O. Box 1268
Desoto, TX 75123-1268

BUY 3 GET 1 FREE*. . .

Same day shipping on most titles

CD ROM Software for the Whole Family

Call for Current Pricing on These Hot Titles

- *Encarta*
- *Myst*
- *Corel Draw*
- *Rebel Assault*
- *Arthurs Teacher Trouble*
- *Carmen Sandiego*
- *Bookshelf*
- *7th Guest*
- *Cinemania*
- *Mequrace*
- *Just Grandma & Me*
- *Outpost*

– Plus 100's more –

We also buy, sell & trade memory

Call Toll-Free to Order or for a free update

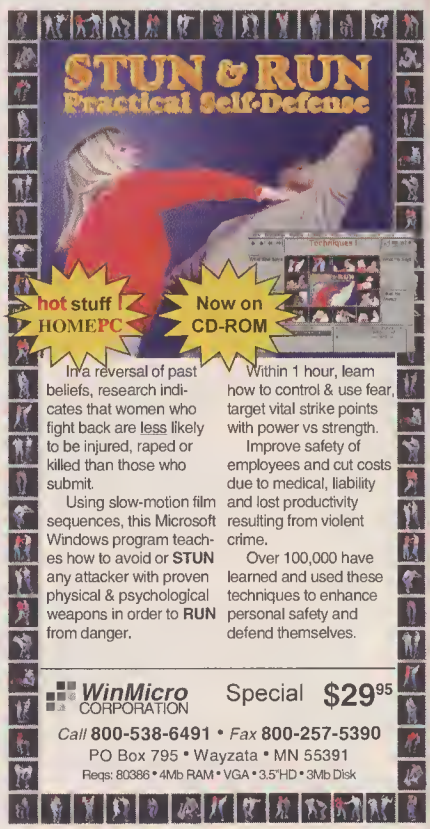
1-800-8-CD-ROMS

VISA — Unconditionally Guaranteed Dealer Inquiries Welcome — MasterCard

• Limit one free CD per household, per month. Free CD titles chosen by Consolidated and can not be substituted. Offer expires December 31, 1994.

Consolidated CD ROM

515 67th Avenue • Philadelphia, PA 19126 • USA
(215) 276-3657 • Fax (215) 276-3854



In a reversal of past beliefs, research indicates that women who fight back are less likely to be injured, raped or killed than those who submit.

Using slow-motion film sequences, this Microsoft Windows program teaches how to avoid or **STUN** any attacker with proven physical & psychological weapons in order to **RUN** from danger.

Within 1 hour, learn how to control & use fear, target vital strike points with power vs strength.

Improve safety of employees and cut costs due to medical, liability and lost productivity resulting from violent crime.

Over 100,000 have learned and used these techniques to enhance personal safety and defend themselves.

WinMicro CORPORATION Special **$29.95**

Call **800-538-6491** • *Fax* **800-257-5390**
PO Box 795 • Wayzata • MN 55391
Reqs: 80386 • 4Mb RAM • VGA • 3.5"HD • 3Mb Disk

CyberSoftware Sales

Super™ CD 6 Pack

Hundreds af dallars af DOS, MAC & Windaws saftware
An amazing value available far a limited time at just:

$19.95

for Six Top CDs

Great for Gifts with games, educational & reference software. Includes famous titles such as Jurassic Art, the Auto Almanac, National Parks, Gigabyte Guide, & more

Order at 1 (800) 288-6347 $3.95 shipping
or PO Box 42787 Las Vegas, NV 89116

CD-ROM's

MasterCard VISA

- Free Catalog
- 24-Hr Order Line
- 350+Titles in Stock

(800) 317-0224

GAMES

7th Guest	$19
Betrayal at Krondor	$27
Beneath a Steel Sky	$39
Chessmaster 4000	$19
Critical Path	$24
Day of the Tentacle	$29
Darkseed	$19
Dragon's Lair	$37
Fate of Atlantis (Ind Jones)	$21
Gabriel Knight	$24
Inca	$19
Inherit the Earth	$37
Jump Raven	$44
Jutland	$24
Kings Quest V	$14
Kings Quest VI	$19
Lands of Lore	$39
Lawnmower Man	$19
Legend of Kyrandia 1	$19
Legend of Kyrandia 2	$41
Loom	$17
Mad Dog McCree	$19
Mad Dog II - Lost Gold	$24
Mario is Missing (Doluxe)	$19
MegaDoom (600+ new levels, Utilities, Cheats for Doom)	$17
MegaRace	$24
Microcosm	$19
MYST	$49
Outpost	$39
Quantum Gate	$24
Rebel Assault	$45
Return to Zork	$19
Sam & Max Hit the Road	$39
Star Trek 25th Anniversary	$29
Star Wars Chess	$19
Street Fighter I & II	$29
Where in World is Carmen Dix	$19

KIDS

Allia's Playhouse	$39
Bailey's Book House	$39
Fatty Bear's Bday Surprise	$19
Fatty Bear's Fun Pack	$17
Macmillan Dict for Children	$21
Mixed Up Mother Goose	$15
New Kid on the Block	$35
Putt-Putt's Fun Pack	$19
Put-Putt Joins the Parade	$19
Oregon Trail	$39

REFERENCE

Animals (San Diego Zoo)	$17
Audobon's Birds	$16
Audobon's Mammals	$16
Beyond Planet Earth	$37
Compton's Inter. Encl. 94	$39
Family Doctor-3rd addition	$19
Grolier's Mult Encyclop 6.0	$35
In the Company of Whales	$37
Mammals - National Geo	$24
Map 'N' Go (Dolorme)	$39
Mayo Clinic Family Health	$19
Microsoft Bookshelf 94	$39
Microsoft Encarta 94	$59
National Parks of America	$19
Phone Disc USA - Residen	$59
Phone Disc USA - Business	$59
Rodshift	$49
Sharks (Discovory	$37
USA Street Atlas (Dolorme)	$89

Myst - $49

MS Bookshelf 94 - $39
Encarta 94 - $59

Authur Teacher's Tbl - $19
Just Grandma & Me - $19
(New) Harry & Haunted House - $35
Tortise & the Hare - $35
(New) Authur's Birthday - $35
(New) Ruff's Bona - $35
(Now) Little Monstor at School - $35

Make Computer Gallery your source for CD-ROM's:

- Order by Phone, Fax, Mail: Visa, MC, Check, M.O.
- Same day shipping (U.S. orders placed before 5:00pm)
- S&H (via Airborne Express): $6/order for 2-day, $9/order for Overnight. Call/Fax for S&H cost outside of U.S.

Call or write for our free catalog!

Computer Gallery
P.O. Box 409
Perrysburg, Ohio 43552

AIRBORNE EXPRESS

Phone:(419) 874-0288 Fax:(419) 874-2944

CD ROM/MULTIMEDIA

NeoPaint® Presentations Pack

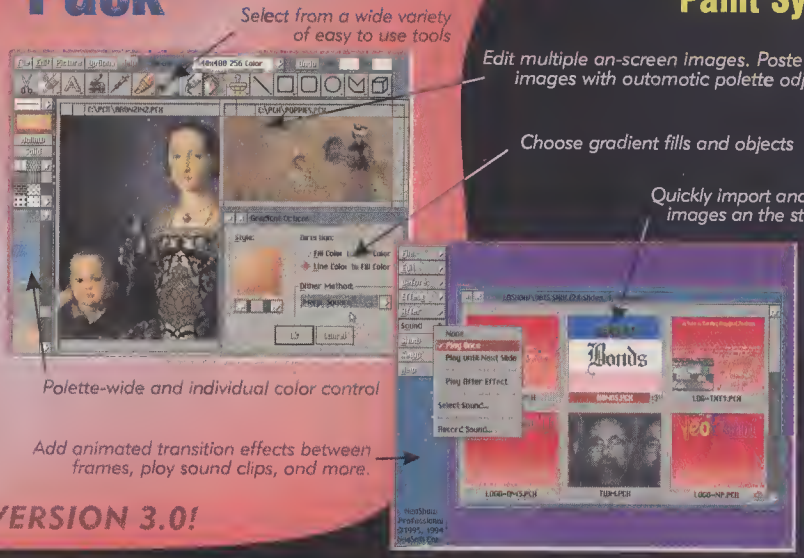
by NeoSoft Corp.

Simply the Best DOS Paint System

Easy, affordable, and powerful. Create/edit graphic images and arrange them into stunning audio-visual presentations!

Great for creating illustrations for desktop publishing, editing images, producing presentations, and other projects. Edits images from black and white, all the way up to 24-bit color resolutions. Clip-art stamp pad, watercolor, charcoal/pastel, gradients, distort, bezier curves, cloning, crop, blend, rotation (single degree increments), 3-D objects, and many other tools and features.

Easily combine images into slide show-type presentations, complete with animated transition effects, palette matching. Sound Blaster™ audio supported.



NEW VERSION 3.0!

For more information, or a dealer near you:

NeoSoft Corp.™

1-800-545-1392
(503) 389-5489 TEL
(503) 388-8221 FAX
(503) 383-7195 BBS

***NeoPaint Presentations Pack*—$69.95 sugg. retail**
***NeoPaint*—$45.00 suggested retail**
(does not contain presentations module)
evaluation copy available for $10 shipping/handling, or download at no charge from our 24-hour BBS.

Product names mentioned are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

SOFTWARE SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL

Your Reliable Source of IBM/PC CD-ROM Software At Rock-Bottom Prices!

7th Guest ... $22.95	Dinosaur Safari ... $17.95	Lotus 1-2-3 v1.1 ... $41.95	Precision Mapping ... $69.95
Action! ... $11.95	Direct Phone ... $24.95	Mad Dog McCree ... $23.95	Printshop Ensemble ... $79.95
Amer Business Phone 6/92 ... $12.95	Dune ... $26.95	Mad Dog McCree 2 ... $27.95	Return to Zork ... $26.95
Animals, San Diego ... $16.95	Encarta, Microsoft ... $51.95	Magic Chef Cookbook ... $9.95	Secret Monkey Island ... $15.95
Arthur's Teacher Trouble ... $19.95	Encyclopedia of Sound v1 or v2 ... $8.95	Magic Death ... $16.95	Select Phone ... $64.95
Audio 1 ... $12.95	Encyclopedia , Groilers v6 ... $32.95	Mammals (Nat Geo.) ... $21.95	Shareware Overload Trio ... $19.95
Audubons Mammels or Birds ... $17.95	Eye of Beholder 3 ... $16.95	Maniac Mansion 2 ... $27.95	Sirius 5 Foot 10 Pack v1 ... $32.95
Backroad Racers ... $24.95	F-15 Strike Eagle 3 ... $17.95	Mantis ... $15.95	Sirius 5 Foot 10 Pack v2 ... $34.95
Best of Microprose ... $21.95	Family Doctor ... $19.95	Mario is Missing ... $17.95	Software Vault 2 ... $12.95
Bibles & Religion ... $8.95	Family Education Collection ... $22.95	Mayo Clinic ... $18.95	So Much Shareware 4 ... $19.95
Carmen World Deluxe ... $24.95	Gabriel Knight ... $26.95	Megarace ... $23.95	Sound Library 2 ... $11.95
CD Caddies ... $5.95	Games 1994 ... $24.95	Microcosm ... $24.95	Sound Sensations ... $8.95
CD Jewell Cases ... $0.95	Games Galore ... $11.95	Microsoft Bookshelf 1994 ... $39.95	Spellcasting Party Pack ... $19.95
Championship Wrestling ... $11.95	Gardening ... $8.95	Microsoft Dinosaurs ... $32.95	Star Trek 25th Anniversary ... $22.95
Choas Continuum ... $20.95	GIFs Galore ... $18.95	Microsoft Golf ... $24.95	Star Wars Chess ... $19.95
CICA Microsoft Windows ... $13.95	Guinness Records 1991 ... $14.95	Midi & Wave Workshop ... $11.95	Star Wars/Rebel Assault ... $46.95
Clipart Heaven 2 ... $23.95	Ham Radio ... $8.95	Midi Master Collection ... $8.95	Story of the World Cup ... $14.95
Clipart Warehouse ... $8.95	Holy Bible & Christian SW ... $16.95	Midi Music Shop Pro ... $16.95	Time Almanac / 1990 ... $14.95
Coffee Break Collection ... $14.95	Hugo's House of Horrors ... $8.95	Multimedia Mania/Chestnut ... $8.95	TFX ... $26.95
Colossal Cookbook ... $8.95	Indy Jones/Fate of Atlantis ... $22.95	Multimedia Mania/Abacus ... $29.95	Too Many Typefonts ... $8.95
Complete Bookshop ... $8.95	Insane Impersonations ... $8.95	Multimedia Platinum ... $9.95	Total Baseball 1994 ... $12.95
Complete Legal Guide ... $8.95	Iron Helix ... $23.95	Multimedia Puzzel ... $12.95	Ultimate Domain ... $19.95
Composer's Quest ... $17.95	Interactive Storytime v1 ... $14.95	Multimedia Screensaver ... $14.95	Video Movie Guide ... $24.95
Compton's Interactive Enc ... $26.95	Its All Relative ... $29.95	Musical World Prof Piccolo ... $24.95	Virtual Vegas ... $24.95
Computer Reference Library ... $8.95	Journeyman Project ... $24.95	Music Box 1994 ... $11.95	Who Killed Sam Rupert ... $16.95
Conspiracy ... $24.95	Just Grandma and Me ... $18.95	Music Toolbox ... $11.95	Who Shot Johnny Rock ... $39.95
Cookbook Heaven 2 ... $14.95	Jutland ... $22.95	Multimedia Puzzel ... $12.95	Willy Beamish ... $17.95
Corel Draw 3.0 ... $49.95	King's Quest 6 ... $21.95	MVP's Game Jamboree ... $8.95	Windows 1994 ... $23.95
Critical Path ... $24.95	Kodak Photo Access ... $21.95	Myst ... $49.95	Windows Master ... $17.95
Cyberrace ... $21.95	Languages of the World ... $19.95	National Parks Series 2 ... $12.95	Winplatinum ... $12.95
Dagger of Amon/Laura Bow 2 ... $22.95	Last Chance to See ... $29.95	Night Owl V13 ... $23.95	Windowware ... $8.95
Deathstar Arcade Battles ... $8.95	Lawnmower Man ... $20.95	Oceans Below ... $18.95	World Circuit ... $19.95
Desert Storm ... $18.95	Learn DOS For Fun ... $11.95	Our Solar System ... $8.95	World Factbook ... $24.95
Dictionaries & Languages ... $8.95	Loom ... $17.95	PC Sig Library V13 ... $21.95	World of Ham Radio ... $9.95
Dinosaurs! Multimedia Enc ... $18.95		Personal Finance ... $8.95	World Traveller ... $8.95

USA & CANADA CALL TOLL FREE TODAY!

1-800-356-1179

Major Credit Cards Accepted

Broad Range of Titles Available

U.S. residents of 48 States - add $5.50 per order for ground shipping. All others may call for shipping costs. Call or write for our latest free catalog . Software Support International 2700 N.E. Andresen Rd. #A-10 Vancouver Wa. 98661

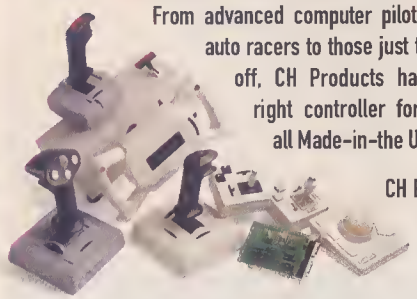
FLY THE BEST!

THE BEST GAME CONTROLLERS FOR YOUR SYSTEM

CH Products offers gamers quality joysticks, flight yokes, game-cards, and trackballs for all games and simulations. We've taken our line of IBM peripherals and expanded into Macintosh and 3DO.™

From advanced computer pilots and auto racers to those just taking off, CH Products has the right controller for you, all Made-in-the U.S.A.

CH PRODUCTS

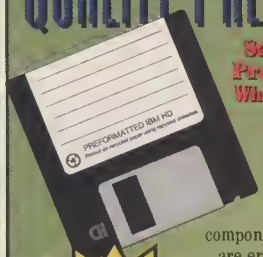


CH Products lets you fly higher, move faster, reach farther!

CH Products / 970 Park Center Drive / Vista, CA 92083
Phone: 619.598.2518 Fax: 619.598.2524

QUALITY PREFORMATTED DISKS

Save Money on Quality Recycled Preformatted, Overlabeled Disks While You Help Save the Environment



as low as 17¢ each

MicroDisk Services introduces a unique concept in recycling: outdated and discontinued software packages are disassembled to their recyclable components and the disks are recovered. These disks are erased, preformatted and quality-checked, then sold to environmentally-conscious computer users like you at substantial savings! You save money and keep unused disks out of our nation's landfills!

FREE! Windows Screensaver with each order of 100 disks or more

Quality is Guaranteed

These high-quality floppy disks have been quality-checked by the disk manufacturer, again by the software publisher, and finally by MicroDisk Services. These disks have been written to once but never used, and carry our ***lifetime guarantee!*** The overlabels are made of recycled paper. Minimum orders are 50 disks, with additional increments of 50 disk lots. Each order of 100 disks or more receives a FREE Windows Screensaver featuring 22 colorful full-screen images from Second Nature Software. Visa, MasterCard and checks payable to MicroDisk Services are welcomed.

New Lower Prices!

Disk Format	50 Disk Lot	Unit Cost
3.5" 720K IBM	$13.50	27¢
3.5" 1.44Mb IBM	$24.50	49¢
3.5" 1.44Mb Mac	$24.50	49¢
5.25" 360K	$8.50	17¢
5.25" 1.2Mb	$12.50	25¢

MicroDiskServices
A Subsidiary of PRISM GROUP INC
15530 Woodinville-Redmond Road
Woodinville, WA 98072
1-800-624-7273, ext 4057
Fax 800-535-8243

QUILTER'S DESIGN STUDIO™

NEW Version for Windows®!

3.0

The Ultimate Tool For Creating Beautiful Quilts!

Display your quilt designs right on your screen!
Print ready-to-use templates - in seconds!
Create new blocks - or use existing ones!
Calculate yardage - also in metric!
Add unlimited colors - and more!

$99
*plus shipping and handling

Also available for the Macintosh®

TO ORDER or for FREE INFO:
619-583-2970 • FAX: 619-583-2682
QuiltSOFT™ P.O. Box 19946 San Diego, CA 92159-0946

CD-ROM

AMTEX OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

Gone Fishin'™ simulates fresh, warm water fishing in the renowned Bay of Quinte on the shore of Lake Ontario. Load your tackle box with your best tackle and head off to your favorite fishing spot to hunt for species such as smallmouth bass, large-mouth bass, pike, muskie and the famous walleye.

All aspects of the fishing ecosystem are accurately modeled including weather, water temperature and fish behavior. Learn by experience where to catch the most fish and what tackle to use or ask the Fishin' Buddy who is only a mouse click away. Display your best catches in the Fishing Lodge or test your skills against anglers around the world during fishing derbies. This simulation is detailed enough to satisfy those with an avid interest in angling yet flexible enough to provide entertainment to novices of all ages.

As Reel As It Gets!

gone fishin' AMTEX™

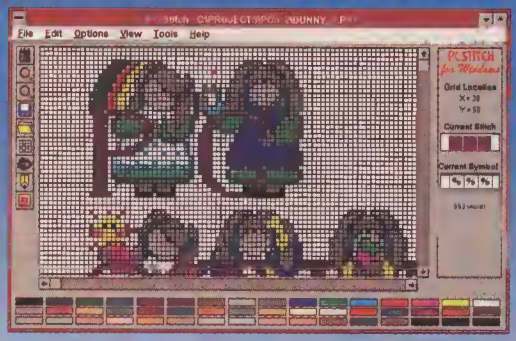
Digital Fresh Water Fishing

AMTEX Software Corporation

For product information contact:
AMTEX Software Corporation, P.O. Box 572, Belleville, Ontario Canada K8N 5B2
Or call (613) 967-7900 Fax (613) 967-7902

Programmed By SIMGRAPH

Design Your Own Cross Stitch Patterns!



Some features include:

- Full, half, quarter and back/outline stitches
- Pattern sizes up to 500 x 500 stitches
- As many as 64 different colors in any pattern
- Build your palette from any DMC, J&P, or Anchor thread color
- Convert BMP, PCX, or GIF files into patterns
- Drawing tools include flip, rotate, copy, move, paint, & center
- A mirror tool to help in drawing symetrical objects

Now only $79.95

1993 PCM Finalist

PCSTITCH for Windows
The Software for Cross Stitch Pattern Design

M&R Enterprises
PO Box 9403, Dept 806
Wright Brothers Branch, Dayton, Ohio 45409
(800) 800-8517 Int. Calls (513) 263-4122

To order send $79.95 to the address above or call us toll free for a credit card order. System requires Microsoft Windows 3.1 or later, 2 Meg of free memory, 5 Meg of hard disk space and a mouse.

Ruth's Recipes

A COMPUTER COOKBOOK WITH REAL FOOD FOR REAL PEOPLE MADE REALLY EASY.

Featuring:

- Comes with 365 recipes
- Add your own recipes
- Search by ingredient or category
- Menu Planner
- Nutritional information
- Makes shopping list
- Adjust recipes for larger or smaller groups
- Available for Microsoft® Windows™

COMING SOON FOR THE MACINTOSH!

Christmas Special

Buy the program for our low price of $29.95 and get our printed cookbook (with full-color pictures), a $19.95 value, for only $7.95. Free S&H. Expires 12/31/94.

CALL ABOUT OUR FREE TRIAL OFFER!

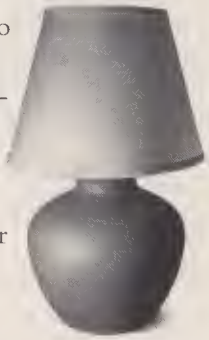
Shirley's Kitchen 1-800-846-RUTH (7884)
1785 West 7800 South W. Jordan, UT 84088

A REFRESHER COURSE IN HOME ECONOMICS.

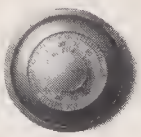
We'd like you to take this simple test to see if your home is as energy efficient as possible. Ready? Let's begin. How many of you have TV's? How many times have you left the room and left it on? How many times have you fallen asleep watching it only to wake up to the "Star Spangled Banner"? And what about your lamps and lights? Do you turn them off when you exit a room? Is your house excessively lit during the day? Next, check your thermostat. Odds are, it could use adjusting. And finally, see if there's a draft coming from your windows and doors. If there is, you're letting valuable energy fly right outside.

If all gas-heated homes were properly weather stripped we'd save enough natural gas to heat 4 million homes.

Now, for the answers. Try installing timers on your lights and television. They're simple to use, and inexpensive. Turn your thermostat up or down a few degrees. If you get cold, grab a sweater or a blanket. If you're hot, wear fewer clothes.



Turning off your lights can save electricity and reduce carbon dioxide pollution.



If everybody adjusted their thermostat by 6 degrees we could save up to 190,000 barrels of oil a day.

As for your windows and doors, a couple packages of $3.00 weather stripping should do the trick.

Each of these things will help save natural resources for the years to come. And if we can do that, we all deserve high marks.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TIPS CALL 1-800-MY-SHARE.

IT'S A CONNECTED WORLD. DO YOUR SHARE.

Ad Council
A Public Service of This Publication

Earth Share

Pinball

AMTEX PINBALL CLASSICS

As Real As It Gets

Amtex, the leader in computer pinball technology, brings you the experience of ***real*** pinball to your computer.
Start your collection with Tristan, Amtex's first award winning pinball simulation which incorporates realistic ball action, colorful graphics and exciting sound effects. Then add to your pinball collection with selections from the Amtex Pinball Classics that capture the experience of real pinball games made by the world's leading pinball manufacturers - Bally, Williams and Gottlieb.

Tristan & Eight Ball Deluxe™ available at your local retailer or contact Amtex Software Corporation at
P.O. Box 572, Belleville, ON, K8N 5B2
1-613-967-7900 Fax: 1-613-967-7902

SOON TO BE RELEASED

Gottlieb's ROYAL FLUSH

AMTEX Software Corporation

All trademarks are the property of their respective companies.

Plan or Dream About Your Next Vacation...

With the Ultimate Computer Aided Travel CD-ROM

Rent Private Homes With Spectacular Views, Private Pools and Beaches

Villa Rentals Range From Surprisingly Affordable to Extravagant

Guaranteed to Keep You Warm All Winter!

Call (800) CD VILLA

Villas of the Caribbean

Copyright 1994 Straight Line Medium, Inc., (804) 784-2693

- 400 Villas, Complete Descriptions and Over 2300 Full-Color Pictures
- Plus Condos, Resorts, Yacht Charters
- Search Criteria, Slide Shows, Music & Voice Instructions for New Users
- Extensive Regional Information & Pictures for 20 Caribbean Islands
- Maps for Each Island With Property Locations, Beaches, Roads & Airports
- Makes a Great Gift - Only $29.95

Min. Sys. Req.: IBM Comp. 386, 4MB RAM, CD-ROM Drive, 256 Color VGA, Windows 3.1

HOMEPC
It really hits home

The DX15F combines high resolution, advanced features, 80 MHz bandwidth, and a 0.28mm dot pitch, all in a 15" screen.

Fill out the survey and win

Return your completed survey before December 23, 1994 and qualify for the drawing to win one of two Mag Innovision monitors.

Not only do you have the chance to win, you'll ensure *HomePC* covers what you want to read. No purchase necessary. Simply fill out and return the survey at the right to CMP Publications, Inc.

The suggested retail price for these monitors is $1,200.

Mag Innovision's Green Energy DX17F is an ultra-high resolution, 100MHz digitally controlled 17" monitor with non-interlaced 1280 x 1024 resolution and a 0.26mm dot pitch.

MAG INNOVISION™

TO MAIL THIS CARD: FOLD CARD AT CENTER AND TAPE CLOSED

HOMEPC Help us help *you!*

To help us better understand how you use the computers in your household and what your software preferences are, we would appreciate your participation in this confidential survey. Your responses will help us provide the stories and information most important to you and will make you eligible to win a free prize!

1. Please check one of the following. Are you:

❑ A subscriber to *HomePC*? ❑ A newsstand buyer of *HomePC*?
❑ Reviewing a sample copy of *HomePC*?

2. Are you male or female? What is your age?

❑ Male ❑ Female Age_____

3. What is the total household income at your residence?

❑ Under $20,000 ❑ $80,000-$99,999
❑ $20,000-$39,999 ❑ $100,000-$124,999
❑ $40,000-$59,999 ❑ $125,000+
❑ $60,000-$79,999

4. What is the highest level of education you've completed?

❑ High school graduate ❑ Post-graduate study/no degree
❑ Some college/no degree ❑ Post-graduate degree(s)
❑ College graduate

5. Do you have children currently living in your household and/or attending college?

❑ Yes ❑ No (If "No," please skip to question 7)

6. If "Yes," how many children live in your household or attend college and what are their ages?

Age	Number of children	Age	Number of children
1 – 4	_____M _____F	16 – 19	_____M _____F
5 – 9	_____M _____F	20 – 22	_____M _____F
10 – 15	_____M _____F	23+	_____M _____F

7. Do you run a business from your home?

❑ Yes ❑ No (If "No," please skip to question 8)

7a. If "Yes," please check off your line of business.

❑ Computer programmer ❑ Doctor ❑ Real estate broker
❑ Consultant ❑ Graphics artist ❑ Researcher
❑ Contractor ❑ Lawyer ❑ Writer
❑ Other (please specify) _____

7b. How important is your home computer to your business?

❑ Indispensible ❑ Very ❑ Somewhat ❑ Not at all

7c. What are the main uses for your computer in your home business? (Please check all that apply.)

❑ Billing/tracking time ❑ Customer databases ❑ Investment research
❑ Business planning ❑ E-mail ❑ Research
❑ Correspondence ❑ Financial records ❑ Telecommuting
❑ Other (please specify) _____

7d. Do you employ anyone else in your home-based business?

❑ Yes ❑ No (If "No," please skip to question 8)

7e. Do your employees have computers in their homes?

❑ Yes ❑ No

7f. Do your employees use computers in your home?

❑ Yes ❑ No

8. For each category below, please indicate whether anyone in your household now owns any software of that type, the most frequent user of that software and whether your household plans to purchase any software of that type in the next 6 to 12 months (if your household already has software from a given category *and* plans to buy more, please check both boxes).

	Currently own	*Advanced user*	*Intermediate user*	*Novice user*	*Plan to purchase in next 6 to 12 months*
ENTERTAINMENT SOFTWARE:					
Adventure	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Arcade	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Flight game	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Interactive movie	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Musical artist compilation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Role-playing game	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Screen savers	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Simulation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Software related to a TV show	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Strategy game	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
War game	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Please specify:_____					
CHILDREN'S EDUCATION SOFTWARE:					
Art/animation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Foreign language	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Geography/history	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Math	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Music/sing-along	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Preschool/readiness	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Reading	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Reference	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Science	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Typing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Writing/word processing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Please specify:_____					
ADULT EDUCATION/HOBBY SOFTWARE					
Automobiles	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Aviation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Collectibles	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
(e.g., coins, stamps, trading cards)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Cooking/wine	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Design (home, landscape, garden)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Drawing/art	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Foreign language	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Genealogy	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Health	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
History/documentary	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Music	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Photography	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Reference	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Religion	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Sports	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Teach yourself computing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Travel	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Writing/reading	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Please specify:_____					
PERSONAL PRODUCTIVITY SOFTWARE:					
Accounting	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Business presentation	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Calendar	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Communications software	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Database	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Desktop publishing	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Integrated programs	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
(usually modified versions of word processor, spreadsheet, database)					
Personal finance	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Personal information managers (PIMs)	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Rolodex	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Spreadsheet	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Suite programs	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
(combinations of word processor, spreadsheet, database, graphics and sometimes e-mail)					
Tax software	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Utilities	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Word processor	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Other	❑	❑	❑	❑	❑
Please specify:_____					

Please complete other side

TEAR HERE

TEAR HERE

TO MAIL THIS CARD: FOLD CARD AT CENTER AND TAPE CLOSED

TO MAIL THIS CARD: FOLD CARD AT CENTER AND TAPE CLOSED

9. Please indicate your next four or five planned software purchases and the most important reasons for your purchase.

Software	*Reasons for purchase*
_____	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____
_____	_____
	_____

10. How interested are you in linking two or more computers together, or in sharing devices such as CD-ROM drives between computers?

❑ Very ❑ Somewhat ❑ Very little ❑ Not at all

11. Do you subscribe to a commercial on-line service?

❑ Yes ❑ No (If "No," please skip to question 12)

11a. If "Yes," which one(s)?

❑ America Online ❑ Delphi ❑ Prodigy
❑ CompuServe ❑ Genie
❑ Other (please specify) _____

11b. Please check all the types of on-line information/services you use, and rank them in order of their importance to you, with "1" being the most important, "2" being the next most important and so on.

_____ Business advice/information
_____ Chat
_____ E-mail
_____ Financial information
_____ Games
_____ Hobbies
_____ Other (please specify) _____

_____ Magazines
_____ News
_____ Research
_____ Reviews
_____ Shareware
_____ Shopping

12. Please complete the following (required for prize eligibility):

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____
State: _____ Zip Code: ____ ____ ____ ____ ____
Phone: (_____)_____

No purchase necessary. To enter, fill out the questionnaire and return it to *HomePC* Magazine, 600 Community Drive, Manhasset NY 11030 (attention: Michael DeMilt). All entries must be received on or before December 23, 1994. Prize winners will be determined at a random drawing of all completed entries at CMP Publications' office on December 23, 1994. The winners will be notified by mail and announced in a subsequent issue of *HomePC*. Judges' decision is final. The drawing is sponsored by CMP Publications Inc. The prize for this drawing is listed on the page preceding this survey. No substitution for prizes, which are not transferable. Taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners. Each winner will be required to sign and return an affidavit of eligibility, liability release and grant permission to use his/her name and address for advertising and promotion within 21 days of notification or an alternate winner will be selected. Contest void where prohibited or restricted by law. Drawing open to residents of the United States who are 18 years or older and are not employees of CMP Publications Inc., or its advertising, promotion or production agencies or members of their immediate families. Only one entry per customer. Odds of winning are determined by the total number of eligible entries received. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late or misdirected entries. For a list of winners, available after December 23, 1994, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to the above address.

TEAR HERE

FOLD HERE TO MAIL

Place
Proper Postage
Here

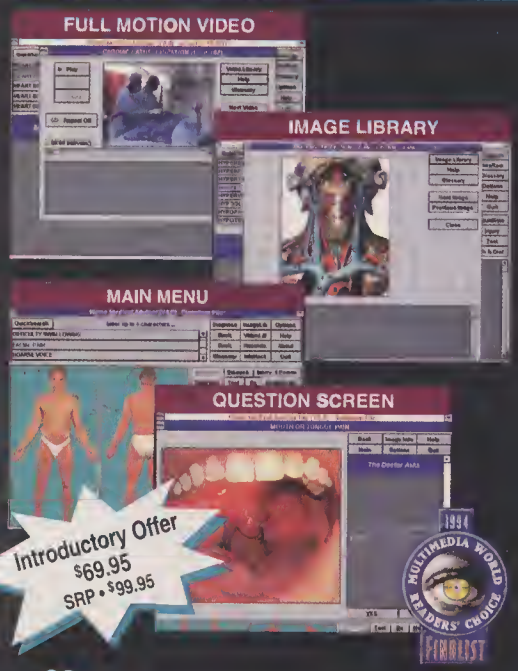
HOMEPC

CMP PUBLICATIONS, INC.
600 Community Drive
Manhasset, NY 11030–9811
Attn: Michael DeMilt

TEAR HERE

The Doctor Will See You Now!

Endorsed By The American College Of Emergency Physicians



- *660 MEGABYTES OF REAL MEDICINE!*
- More than 70 Full-Motion Videos
- Pronounces Medical Terms for You
- 1,500 "Real Life" Photo Images, Censor Capable
- The Only CD that Can Diagnose!
- Low Cost Updates Annually
- Over 30,000 Embedded Hypertext Links
- Complete Personal Record Keeping
- Complex Drug Interaction Analysis
- Includes CPR & First Aid Videos
- Full Print Capability

Competitive Upgrade • Mail us ANY Medical CD, and get the Home Medical Advisor Pro for only $39.95

See your software dealer or call us today 1-800-788-2099
Money Back Guarantee !

Dr. Schueler's
HOME MEDICAL ADVISOR PRO • V4.0

Stephen J. Schueler, M.D., F.A.C.E.P

PIXEL PERFECT

TEL (407) 770-0310 • FAX (407) 777-0323 • 10400 South Tropical Trail • Merritt Island, FL 32952

Requires Microsoft Windows 3.1, CD-ROM Drive, 4 Mb RAM • Recommended: 386DX or above, 256 Color VGA • Diskette version also available, DOS or Windows 3.1

BABYDOC™

On call for your child 24 hours a day

Software to keep **children** healthy

Record
Medical History
Identification
Insurance Info
Hospital Info.
Family Info.
Doctor Info.
Laboratory Info.

Print
Medical Reports

Evaluate
Immunization
Growth
Development
Lead Poisoning

Diagnose
500 Diseases

Read up on
300 Diseases
700 Medications

$49.95
IBM Compatible

BABYDOC
(Dealer inquiries welcome)

PO Box 26180 Fresno, CA 93729-6180 / 800 NICE KID / 800 642 3543

Fix Windows at the Touch of a Button

MS Windows is great. But robust? Not always.

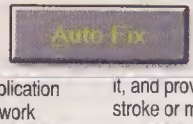
Lost drivers, bad .INI files, misplaced DLLs and application components, printing and network problems... they're all capable of stopping your productivity dead in its tracks.

Then, you get to either put on your own 'tech support' hat and wrestle with the problem, or call for tech support. And wait.

Forget that. Now you can avoid many crashes altogether.

Introducing *First Aid for Windows Users.*™

This simple, automatic program runs in the background and monitors Windows behavior, anticipating problems.



When it finds a problem, it pops up, alerting you to the situation, explaining it, and providing the solution. One keystroke or mouse click, and it's fixed.

That's all there is to it.

First Aid for Windows Users fixes over 1,000 common problems with Windows and most popular Windows applications.

Reach for our First Aid package.

Ask your favorite software dealer today, or call us direct.

Priced at less than $50, it will pay for itself the first time you use it.

First Aid for Windows Users is the application you can't afford to be without.

©1994 CyberMedia. Trademarks are property of their respective owners.

Instant Support From
CyberMedia

1800 Century Park East, Suite 1145, Century City, CA 90067
800-5CYBER-D Fax: (310) 843-0120

THE PRECIOUS YEARS™

A CHILDHOOD SOFTWARE JOURNAL

The true joy of parenting is the experience of watching our children grow and change from their birth to adolescence and beyond. THE PRECIOUS YEARS™ provides an easy, fun computerized journal of your children's life including:

- *-Medical History*
- *-Immunizations*
- *-Growth Statistics*
- *-Baby Book*
- *-School Grades & Accomplishments*
- *-Family Tree*
- *-Childhood Diary*
- *-Photographs*
- *-Babysitter Emergency Section*
- *-Reports for Family Members*

For more information or to order your family's copy contact:

800-908-4448

VISA\MC\CHECK *$39.95

CENTSIBLE SOFTWARE
10050 MONTGOMERY ROAD
CINCINNATI, OHIO 45242
513-683-0709

RETAILER INQUIRIES WELCOMED
*plus $3 Shipping\Handling fees

E-Mail Address:
Compuserve - 75203, 3657
America On-Line - Doug Scha

REQUIRES WINDOWS 3.1

Kids CD-ROM Connection

The Best Educational Software At The Best Prices

Kids CD-ROM Connection reviews children's software and can sell top-rated CD's at a great price!! We only recommend quality children's software which stimulates creativity and cognitive learning skills and which allows your child to be in control. Connect your kids to a world of fun and learning! Here are our top picks:

CALL 1-800-994-0033 TO ORDER NOW

Product Name	Retail Price	Our Price	Age Group
Crayola™ Amazing Art Adventure™	$59.95	$49.95	2 to 8
Early Math	$49.95	$39.95	2 to 6
Beginning Reading	$49.95	$39.95	2 to 7
Bug Adventure	$69.95	$49.95	3 to 8
Bailey's Book™ House	$49.95	$39.95	2 to 6
Putt-Putt Joins the Parade	$49.95	$39.95	2 to 7
Kid's Zoo	$69.95	$49.95	2 to 8

FREE! Dr. T's Sing-A-Long Kids Classics when you buy three or more of the above titles.
We accept Visa and MasterCard.

Next 100,000 Orders Only!

Uses Windows 3.1*

Absolutely FREE
Mini Fun Pack

What a Value !
Six Fun-filled Activities
for the
Whole Family

- New Original Games
- Fun Learning Words
- Exciting Action Games
- "A-maze-ing" Puzzles
- Great For All Ages

1-800-822-6790

CARMACON
450 Oak Street Palmerton, PA 18071

Note: There is a non-refundable $9.95 shipping and administration charge. Please have your credit card ready. Visa, MasterCard. Limit one copy per household. Offer good in continental US only.

* Windows is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corp

Mach Turtles Logo

Logo Programming Language for Windows

Logo is an easy-to-use programming language created for children. Logo is an excellent first programming language for both children and adults.

- Make Windows **screen savers.** Turn Logo programs into screen savers in just a few seconds!
- **Application generator** builds "stand-alone" programs.
- Create exciting graphics with **multiple turtles.**
- **Built-In editor** and **debugging support.**
- Extensive **on-line help.**

Run-time module required for stand-alone programs and screen savers included.
Requires Windows 3.1

Softsparks
1-800-390-7971
P.O. Box 68039, Hamilton, ON, L8M 3M7

TYKE BYTES

Educational Software for Children

Over 70 low-cost, high-quality original programs available for the IBM-PC (DOS and Windows) and the Apple Macintosh. Ages 3-16.

$3 for sample disk.
(Specify computer type/disk size.)

SASE or phone for brochure.

KIDware
15600 NE 8th, Suite B1-314
Bellevue, WA 98008
(206) 721-2556

Does this much FUN come out of your mailbox?

YA YA Designs 94

Call (800) TLC-8622 for a FREE Children's Software Catalog!

Over 200 titles for IBM, Macintosh and CD ROM;
Sega, Nintendo and 3DO too!

T.L.C.

PC Logo™
FOR WINDOWS™

It's Here!

A powerful new version of the Logo programming language is now available for Windows.

PC Logo for Windows is an easy-to-understand computer language that makes learning fun.

Now you can help your children practice at home what they are learning in school.

But, for all its simplicity and friendliness, PC Logo is challenging for experienced programmers too.

Features include:

- Illustrated, full-color on-line help
- Multiple turtles: command separately or together
- Turtle color, speed and shape control
- Supports Windows installed fonts and printers
- Compatible with other Windows programs

HARVARD ASSOCIATES, INC.

For more information or to order, call:
800-774-LOGO

10 Holworthy St. • Cambridge, MA 02138 • Fax (617) 492-4610
CompuServe 70312,243 • Internet 70312.243@compuserve.com

teacher certified NEA™

List Price $39.95
Our Price **$29.95!**

MIGHTY MORPHIN POWER RANGERS™

"Mighty Morphin Power Rangers", the hot new children's TV series from Saban Entertainment, comes to CD-ROM for **MAC** and **MSDOS** in 5 exciting live action shows! Follow Jason, Kimberly, Billy, Trini and Zack as they battle an intergalactic sourceress. See the Power Rangers "morph" into costumed superhereos and burst into action with amazing fighting powers drawn from the spirits of ancient dinosaurs. This **CD-ROM** allows you to mix and match scenes from different shows. Video, audio, text and graphics are right at your fingertips, providing hours of thrilling entertainment. You can follow your favorite Ranger from scene to scene, or see a complete adventure through from beginning to end, You can pick and choose your favorite scenes and watch them one at a time, or play them back in any order you want. **The last scene teaches kids to say NO! to drugs.** Also enclosed is membership information for the Power Rangers Fan Club! What a great way for kids to learn to use the computer! Send just $29.95 plus $3.95 shipping & handling.

Order by December 15th, 1994 and receive a special holiday bonus! HO, HO, HO!

CALL OR WRITE FOR A FREE PRICE LIST, OR FOR A DETAILED CATALOG SEND $4.95 TO:

(Trademark of Saban Int'l.)

CATALOG INCLUDES:

* hundreds of leading educational software products with complete descriptions, awards & recommendations
* a $5.00 off coupon toward any software purchase
* information on joining the SAS Kid's Computer Club which offers quarterly newsletters, special discounted educational software purchases & free gifts
* SAS Scholastic Software Bundles designed to meet standard grade level curriculums; offered with customized menus and leading software products at fantastic savings

School-Age Software

5420 Douglas Blvd. Granite Bay, CA. 95746
(916) 791-0703

Season's Greetings!

$29.95 FUN EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE

BEGINNERS
COMPUTER SKILLS-READING
RHYME - OBJECT MATH - SHAPES - TYPING
MOUSE SKILLS - COLORING BOOKS - ABCs

30 PROGRAMS

WIN

5 NEON COLORED DISKS
IBM COMPATIBLE
SHAREWARE

DOS

2-7 YEAR OLDS WILL LOVE LEARNING
WHILE PLAYING THESE EDUCATIONAL GAMES
ALL PROGRAMS RUN FROM 3 1/2" HD DISK

FREE BONUS! 1 DISK 6 GAMES
WITH PURCHASE

Kid's Advantage
1-800-KIDS-181

Life should be an adventure, so seek the source!

AdventureSource

The BBS dedicated to kids of any age.

- Easy-to-use menus.
- Fully supervised and monitored.
- 1000's of shareware titles-education, adventure & arcade.
- Play interactive games with other members.
- Teleconference with other members on-line.
- Send E-Mail to other members.

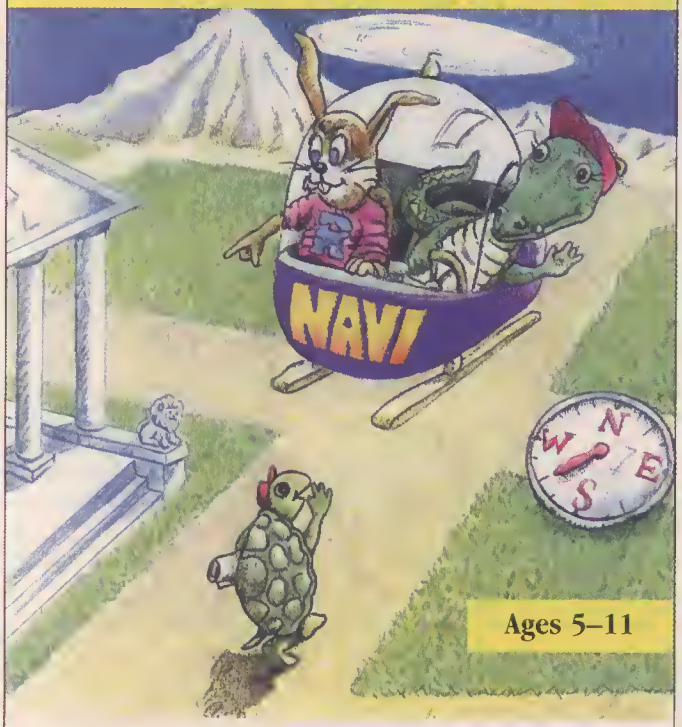
For a *FREE TRIAL*, dial your modem to:

(313)953-8666

or call on your telephone
(313) 953-8662

KIDS KORNER

THE NAVIGATOR



Point Your Kids in the Right Direction!

Introduce them to compass orienting! Here at last is The NaviGator®—an innovative and creative educational game that empowers children to learn compass directions while creating their very own city maps. Home and school tested, kids love the challenge and enjoy the reward of saving and printing their city maps. The NaviGator encourages:

- Early map reading skills
- Compass direction skills
- Compass orientation skills
- Symbol association
- Spatial relations

DOS or Mac
Introductory offer **$39.95**
Regularly **$49.95**

To order call: **1-800-557-7788** 9:00AM – 9:00PM PST
FAX: 408-358-2697

greatime software
P.O. Box 14155, Fremont, CA 94539

You Can't Buy Happiness.

But For $29.95 You Can Purchase Peace Of Mind.

Protect Your Files And Software With Automenu® for Kids

Introducing *Automenu for Kids*—a new menu design that's fun for kids, and comforting for parents.

Automenu For Kids features a choice of three fun screens from which kids can choose their favorite games and programs.

Automenu for Kids lets kids start their favorite software—even if they don't know how to use DOS or Windows. Best of all, it keeps them from getting into software and data not intended for their use.

For just $29.95, discover the exciting new software concept that the Chicago Sun-Times says "may be the software bargain of this early holiday season."

To order, call
1-800-662-4330
or visit your local software retailer

MAGEE™

2909 Langford Road, Suite A-600
Norcross, GA 30071-1506
(404) 446-6611 Fax: (404) 368-0719

Note: Price does not include shipping and handling.
Automenu for Kids works with DOS or Windows with an EGA monitor or better.

Give your kids their own World Series...

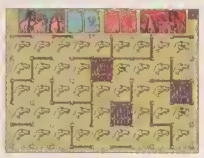
The math education game that takes America's favorite pastime into the future. Practice math skills while playing baseball against racket armed rabat pitchers and radar using rabat outfielders.
Ages 5–12

Animated umpire calls 'em like he sees them.

Special Holiday Price
$29.95 each
Plus $3.50 shipping & handling
30 day money back guarantee
Available for Windows & Macintosh
1-800-217-4066

Fun for the entire family! A collection of seven classic games with dinosaur twists for ages 5 and up:

- Brachiosaurus Brunch
- HongCaveman
- SoliDinoToire
- Dino Capture
- Pick Up Bones
- Dino Rocks
- Dino Wars



- Play against a friend or the computer
- Great graphics and sounds
- Dino Humor
- It Talks!

Or a dinosaur to play with.

Discovery Entertainment Software • 10689 Maplewood Street, Suite D • Cupertino CA 95014

ThinkSmart's
College Guide™
The Ultimate College Application Tool

As Recommended by **Home PC**

List ~~59.95~~
Introductory Price:
39.95
(first 10,000 callers)

NOW! Save hundreds of hours of searching.
GET... Latest information on over 1000 Colleges & Universities.
INSTANTLY... Matches you to the College of your Choice.
GENERATE... Professional Application & Financial Aid Requests.

Recommended by College Guidance Counselors

To order call Toll-Free :
1-800-925-6853 FAX : 914-356-1343
A product of TES, Inc. 750 Chestnut Ridge Rd. Spring Valley, NY 10977

Please Specify: Undergraduate Edition
Medical School Edition
Add $4.00 S&H Law School Edition

Satisfaction Guaranteed!

MICROSOFT® WINDOWS COMPATIBLE

IBM or Compatible
Windows 3.1 or higher
Hard Drive, 4 MB RAM

A Must For The Serious College Applicant

Generic CADD 6.0 for DOS

$99.95

Let Generic CADD be your tool of choice for creating everything from conceptual designs to presentation-quality drawings. Engineers, drafters, designers, illustrators, and map makers can take ideas from initial concept through final project production with Generic CADD. Package includes over 500 symbols, 50 hatch patterns and more than 35 fonts. 3.5 inch LD and 5.25 inch HD media.

Thunder & Lightning

$49.95

24-Bit SuperVGA and High-Quality Audio On A Single Card! Thunder & Lightning supports 15,16, and 24-bit color depths in resolutions to 800x600 for 15 & 16-bit, and 640x480 for 24 bit photo-realistic color (16,777,216 hues!) at refresh rates up to 72Hz. Digital Audio 8-bit digitizing and playback up to 22kHz. ThunderBoard, SoundBlaster and AdLib compatible. 3.5" HD media.

allCLEAR 2.0 for Windows

$49.95

allCLEAR automatically translates your text into a dynamic, high-impact flow chart. Simply describe your process in the included editor or your favorite word processor. Punctuation determines the format of your chart, changes are a snap. Just edit your text and allCLEAR automatically redraws, reroutes and resizes. allCLEAR also provides direct support for dBASE and Lotus 1-2-3 files. 3.5 inch HD media.

Pack of 25 3½" High Density Pre-Formatted Floppy Disks

WINProbe 2.0 for Windows

$19.95

With one click WINProbe analyzes your hardware and software configuration, then gives you up to 35 suggestions on how to speed up your system. WINProbe provides helpful information on installing a new hard drive; IRQ, DMA and UMB usage; what to do when installing an add-in card; memory allocation and management; locating and removing duplicated system files; and more. 3.5 inch LD media.

dBASE IV 2.0 for DOS

$99.95

The premier database application for data managers and database application programmers. dBase is supported by a worldwide network of third-party add-on, consulting and training organizations. dBase IV provides the best solution for the diversity of data management needs — from simple customer list management to complex accounting and inventory applications. 3.5 inch media.

Excel 4.0 for Windows

$59.95

Excel 4.0 gives you unprecedented power and ease of use. Drag-and-drop data editing: highlight and drag to move numbers. Online assistants guide you through complex spreadsheet tasks. Analysis ToolPak includes over 160 functions and procedures. Scenario Manager lets you make multiple "what if" projections and summarize them. Database capabilities allow you to manage lists and access data. 3.5 inch HD media.

AudioPort from MediaVision

$39.95

A full-featured sound system in a tiny package. This innovative adapter plugs into your desktop or laptop's parallel port and gives you great sound on your AT based machine, including 8-bit digital audio record & playback and multi-timbrel synthesis, plus AdLib, SoundBlaster and ThunderBoard emulation (on 386SX or better PCs). Operates on 6-volt battery eliminator, included in package, or 4-AAA batteries

Microsoft Office 4.0 Competitive Upgrade

$199.95

Includes Special Upgrade Coupon.

The Microsoft Office includes four essential programs that work together. You get Microsoft Word 6.0, MS Excel 4.0, MS PowerPoint 3.0 and a MS Mail 3.2 license. The programs look and work alike so once you learn one, you're well on your way to learning them all. Includes coupon for upgrades to MS Excel 5.0 and PowerPoint 4.0 3.5 inch LD media.

AutoSketch 1.0 for Windows

$59.95

AutoSketch gives you the freedom to create and the precision to generate high-quality drawings. This easy-to-use CAD package has the familiar feel of the Windows interface combined with a full range of CAD drawing tools. Whether you are producing detailed technical drawings or architectural renderings, AutoSketch will have you creating professional quality drawings in no time. 3.5 inch HD media.

PackRat 5.0 for Windows

$79.95

You need fast access to your information throughout the day, and you shouldn't have to constantly switch between your Information Manager and your other work applications. With PackRat 5.0 your applications are just a click away. Instead of crowding all your tools onto one screen, you create a folder for each type of work you do. Each folder contains only those tools for that task. 3.5 inch HD media.

MediaVision DoubleCD 16 Kit

$199.95

Turn your old personal computer into a multimedia machine! This high-quality add-on kit includes everything you need to explore the cutting edge of multimedia technology. You receive a Phillips CM-206 double-speed drawer-loading CD-ROM drive, a Media Vision Pro Audio 16 LMSI sound card with CD-ROM interface, cables, drivers, sound utility software, installation manual, and Quantum Gate CD-ROM game.

NEW CD TITLES LOWER PRICES!!!

CD-ROM Caddies	**$3.95**
Business Phone Directory 93-94	$19.95
Bibles and Religion (Shareware) DOS	$9.95
Bible Library (Shareware)	$19.95
"C" Users Library DOS	$25.95
CD 5ft. 10 Pak (Ten Titles!)	$32.95
CD 5ft. 10 Pak Volume 2	$32.95
Chestnut Shareware Titles	$9.95
Cookbook Heaven (Shareware)	$13.95
Cowboy Casino	$34.95
Critical Path	$24.95
Cyber Race	$16.95
d-Time[10]	$39.95
Dark Seed	$18.95
Education Master 4th Ed. (Shareware)	$14.95
Encyclopedia of Stamps	$23.95
ESPN Golf with Tom Kite	$49.95
Family Doctor Vol. 3 WIN/MPC	$17.95
Game Master 4th Ed. (Shareware)	$14.95
Guidebook to Mathematics WIN	$19.95
Halo Desktop Imaging	$16.95
The Holy Bible (Shareware)	$14.95
Home Brewing Guide	$22.95
Inca	$25.95
Internet Access	$19.95
Kirk's Communication Disc	$21.95
Lands of Lore	$39.95
Lemmings I&II	$25.95
MPC Wizard	$12.95
Mad Dog McCree	$25.95
Mad Dog McCree II	$36.95
Multimedia Audio Collection WIN	$21.95
Myst	$47.95
National Geographic Mammals	$19.95
Parenting	$15.95
Encyclo. of JFK Assassination	$23.95
Outpost	$37.95
Plan It Adrenaline	$16.95
Plan It Earth	$16.95
Plan It Paradise	$16.95
Project Gutenberg (e-texts)	$15.95
Quantum Gate	$23.95
Shareware Overload Trio (3 Discs!)	$19.95
Speakers Encyclopedia WIN	$19.95
Street Atlas USA 2.0	$89.95
Straight from Heaven DOS (Shareware)	$16.95
Sys V r4	$28.95
Team NFL 1994	$16.95
TFX Flight Simulator	$28.95
Tool Kit for Linux	$21.95
Video Movie Guide	$14.95
Virtual Vegas: Blackjack	$19.95
X11 r6	$16.95

JIAN *Builder* Products

$19.95 Each Title

Put the experts to work for you and tackle those daunting tasks that never seem to get done. JIAN *Builder* packages provide templates that you fill to create complete, comprehensive documents for business and organizations. Choose from:

BizPlan *Builder*
Publicity *Builder*
SafetyPlan *Builder*
LivingTrust *Builder*

Dress Shop 1.5.7 for DOS

$19.95

Custom fitted patterns without the hassle! Type in your 13 key measurements, select one of 29 garments and print.. Dress Shop will print your full-sized pattern in sections, ready to tape together and use. Includes patterns for blouses, dresses, skirts, pants and more. Dress Shop can also be used as a fitting tool with commercial patterns. Dress Shop can store measurements for up to 100 women on disk. Dual media.

MS Word 6.0 for DOS Vers. Upgrade

$49.95

Create text, design pages with headlines and multiple columns, import graphics, and wrap text. Use Word to create and print mail merge documents and address labels. Create and edit tables of text or numbers and perform calculations. 3.5 inch 720K media.

Purchase Word 5.5 and qualify for the Word 6 upgrade!
Word 5.5/6.0 Upg. Bndl $69.95

QEMM 7.0 for DOS

$29.95

QEMM examines your entire PC concentrating particularly on the first megabyte of memory addresses. It looks for gaps and addresses without memory and fills these with memory. QEMM fetches your TSR programs and hardware drivers and fits them into the gaps. QEMM tries thousands and sometimes millions of combinations to find the optimum arrangement below 640K. 5.25 inch HD media.

MORE TITLES, GREAT PRICES!

Phillips Obl Spd CD-ROM Kit w/ Sound Card	$199.95
Family Bible DOS	$22.95
Check It 3.0 DOS	$19.95
Carbon Copy 6.0 DOS	$49.95
Excel 4.0	$59.95
IBM 365MB IOE Hard Disk	$219.95
IBM 540MB IOE Hard Disk	$315.95
Trantor SCSI Works!	$25.95
14.4 Int. Fax/Modem w/ WinFax Lite	$89.95
9600 Int. Fax/Modem	$39.95
Norton Desktop WIN 1.0 w/ FaxGrabber	$9.95
Winner Sniper Joystick	$15.95
Occo 14" .28dp Non-interlaced Monitor	$239.95
OS/2 2.1 for Windows CD-ROM	$19.95
PageMaker 5.0 Upg. WIN	$139.95
allCLEAR DOS	$19.95
Writer's Toolkit DOS/WIN	$29.95
Pacioli 2000 2.0 DOS	$7.95
Trident Super VGA Card	$75.95
King Puzzle VL-Bus IOE I/O Card	$19.95
PFS: WinWorks 2.0 w/WinFax Lite	$39.95
Microsoft Access 1.0	$29.95
Microsoft Fox Pro 2.0 DOS	$39.95
Microsoft Visual Tools Suite 1.0	$99.95

AutoDesk 3D Concepts for Windows

$59.95

Whether you are a engineer, architect or illustrator there's nothing like a 3D model to fully understand how a design concept will look from any angle before it's built. AutoDesk 3D Concepts combines the power and precision of 3D computer-aided design (CAD) with the simplicity and ease of the Windows environment. Works with other CAD software via AutoCAD .DXF format. Dual HD media package.

CALL TO GET ON OUR MAILING LIST!

- Visa, Mastercard & Discover Card Accepted.
- No Charges Until Orders Are Shipped. Shipping Charges Additional.
- Purchase Orders Accepted Upon Credit Approval
- Item Availability & Prices Subject To Change Without Notice
- Upgrade Offers & Special Promotions Are Subject To Change
- Compatibility Not Guaranteed
- Returns Must Have Return Authorization Number
- No Returns On Used Or Open Products
- All Defective Product Handled Through Manufacturer
- Orders Placed Before 3:00 PM Pacific Time Shipped Same Day
- Not Responsible For Typographic Errors

VISA · MasterCard · DISCOVER NOVUS · AIRBORNE EXPRESS.

WHAT IS SURPLUS SOFTWARE?

Surplus Software International, Inc. is a clearinghouse for publishers, distributors and retailers of their overstocked, over-produced, or distressed inventories. We offer many current version, previous version, and economy packages that offer tremendous value to you. Previous versions offer you the option of trying software at an affordable price, and to upgrade to the current version. Some products come in economy packaging that offer tremendous savings over the full retail price. All the products we offer are unused.

CALL TO GET ON OUR MAILING LIST!

MORE VALUE FOR YOUR SOFTWARE DOLLAR

SURPLUS SOFTWARE INTERNATIONAL

1-800-753-7877

INTERNATIONAL ORDERS: (503) 386-1375 • FAX ORDERS: (503) 386-4227
CUSTOMER SERVICE (503) 386-5215
489 NORTH 8TH ST. • HOOD RIVER • OREGON • 97031

finishing touch

REFLECTIONS ON HOME AND TECHNOLOGY

Not a creature was stirring? Well, maybe a mouse...

By Santa Claus

When you've been running a successful home business as long as I have, change doesn't come easy. It's not as if my head's been buried in the snow: I know computers do wonderful things, and I was glad when we installed them. It's just that all that technology talk leaves me cold (and spare me the North Pole jokes, please).

I can't claim to understand any of it. I'm grateful that one of our elves, Timbelline, does. He's automated the reindeer feeding, built a database for Mrs. Claus's recipes, even written a program called The Santa Simulator to train our helpers in the department stores. But frankly, for the longest time, no matter what he showed me, I couldn't catch his gung-ho spirit.

"Wait 'til you see this, sir," Timbelline crowed one day, pointing gleefully to red and green figures dancing around the words JOEnet on his computer screen.

"Who's JOE?" I asked.

"Not who, what. It's the Jolly-Old-Elf network, sir. Like it? This honey'll revolutionize how we do things up here," he said.

"And what's this?" I asked sheepishly.

"It's a mouse, chief," Timbelline said. "It's great—you can tell the computer what you want, and you won't even have to take your mittens off. Here, try it!"

"But if all our work's on the PC I'll be stuck at my desk all day," I balked. "I'm a hands-on kind of guy. My place is with the troops."

"I've been thinking about that," he said. "You need mobility. Actually, I was hoping to fix you up with a nice little laptop. Of course, uh, well...it helps if you have a lap."

"Ho ho ho. Don't get smart, Timbelline."

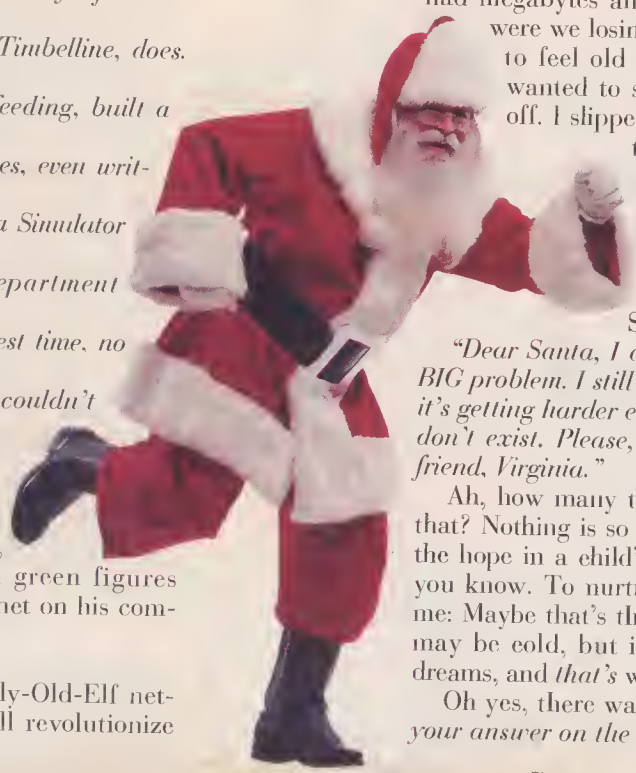
Timbelline took me to see a portable PC the elves were building. "Notice anything different?" he smiled when we hit the workshop.

It was too quiet. No hammering. I must have looked alarmed. "Don't worry, S.C.," Timbelline said. "Observe." He pointed to a group of elves tapping on a keyboard to tweak the style of a doll house on screen. "Let me say one word: CAD."

"Pardon me?"

"CAD, sir. Computer-aided design."

As I watched the screen gyrations, I couldn't say if this efficiency was naughty or nice. We had megabytes and bandwidth and RAM, but were we losing our heart? I was beginning to feel old and out of step. Timbelline wanted to show me more, but I begged off. I slipped back to my office and shut the door. I was mulling over real estate in Florida when I noticed something blinking on my computer screen (yes, Timbelline had a PC installed on my desk, too). Someone had sent me e-mail.

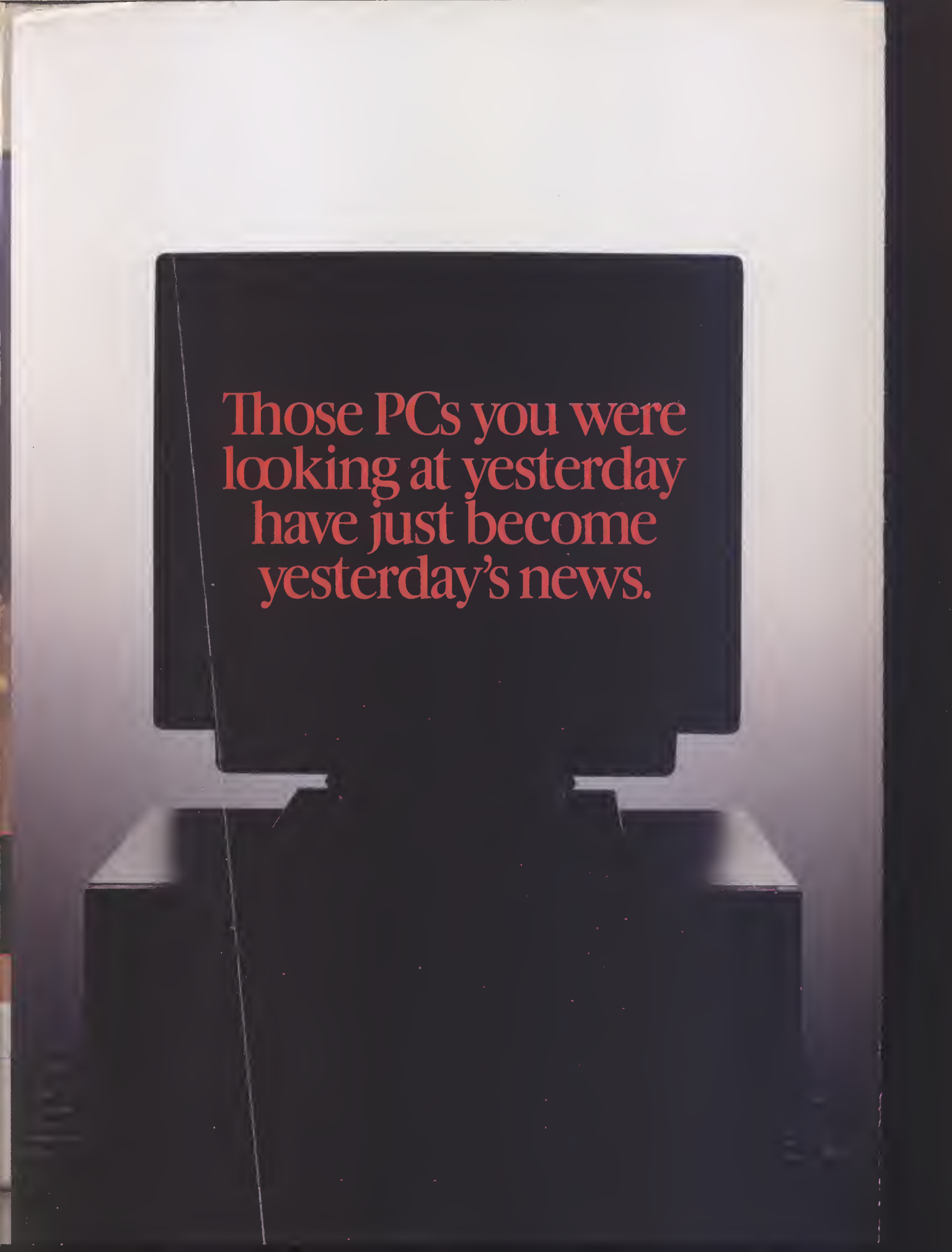


"Dear Santa, I am 7 years old and I have a BIG problem. I still believe in you, of course, but it's getting harder every day. My friends say you don't exist. Please, Santa, say it isn't so. Your friend, Virginia."

Ah, how many times have I seen letters like that? Nothing is so fragile and yet so vibrant as the hope in a child's heart. That's my real job, you know. To nurture dreams. And then it hit me: Maybe that's the computer's job, too. A PC may be cold, but it helps people follow their dreams, and *that's* worth getting fired up about.

Oh yes, there was a P.S.: *Santa, please post your answer on the Internet.* ●

Photograph by FPG International; illustration by Terry Allen


Those PCs you were
looking at yesterday
have just become
yesterday's news.

It's a speakerphone, a fast modem. It's listening to voicemail while you're sending a fax. It's how to eat the Big Boys' lunch.

Welcome to the new world of Personal Computing and Communications–PC&C. And the powerful task management capabilities the AT&T Globalyst™ 360TPC brings to your work at home or small business. We listened to what people like you said about how they work. And created a solution that works like an entire office. Complete with secretary.

It starts with a fully featured multi-media platform. And adds a single-board communications command center. Including fax. Voicemail. Online access. Answering machine. Speed dialing. Autodialing. Phone book. Music on hold. And a whole lot of things no one else can offer.

The Globalyst 360TPC is also a full duplex speakerphone. (That's technospeak for brilliantly clear, natural sounding, naturally overlapping conversations with your client or your boss.)

The speaker/microphone not only has AT&T Bell Labs' unparalleled acoustics, it sits anywhere you want it on your desk. So you don't have to hang over the monitor on conference calls.

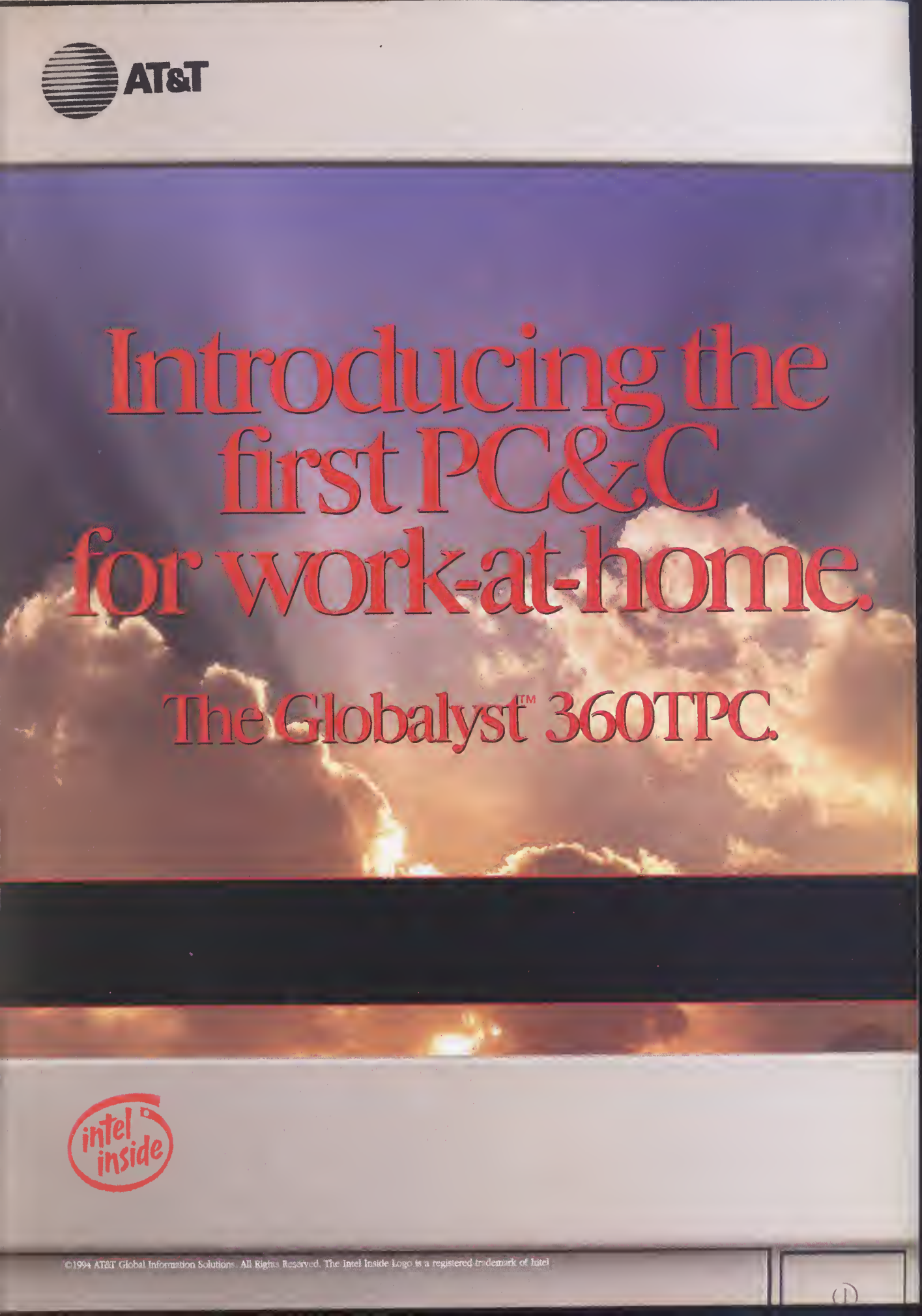
What's more, the 360TPC searches its built-in personal phone directory to match up Caller ID numbers with a name, so you know who's calling you before you answer.

There are three ways to order your AT&T Globalyst PC&Cs. From America's premier resellers, from the finest PC retail outlets, or direct. Call 1 800 621-9122 to find out more. Or call our fax-back service at 1 800 438-4282 and ask for document 7360.

GET move USE IT.™

Now that NCR and AT&T are one, computing and communications have come together to help you get, move, and use information.

AT&T
Global Information Solutions

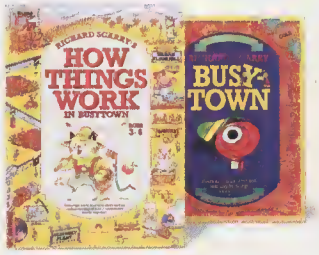


©1994 AT&T Global Information Solutions. All Rights Reserved. The Intel Inside Logo is a registered trademark of Intel

Your four year old is already running your house. Why not give him a whole town?

Kids these days. At one they're walking, at two they're already talking, and at three they're operating a fully functional recycling plant. In the new *Richard Scarry's How Things Work In Busytown.*

Your three-to-six year old will learn to do things like grow wheat on a farm, then grind it into flour at the mill and finally use it to bake bagels at the bakery. It's all part of the eight connected playgrounds designed to teach children how people work together in a community. And *How Things Work* is from the creators of *Busytown*, the winner of the Parent's Choice Award. Which means it's one town you'll be happy to let your child get lost in.



For PC and Mac on CD-ROM and diskette.

Richard Scarry's
How Things Work
In Busytown

© 1994 Richard Scarry. All Rights Reserved. The Busy World of Richard Scarry is a trademark of Paramount Pictures. Paramount Interactive is an imprint of Viacom New Media. Viacom New Media is a trademark of Viacom International Inc. Designed and developed by Novotrade.